

January 2012

**2011 MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF FELLOWS  
OF THE COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI**

place: Carpi, Italy  
date: 29 October 2011  
time: 9:00 a.m.

Fellows present:

1	<b>ALBIN, MARIA</b>	SWEDEN
2	<b>ANDERSON, HENRY</b>	USA
3	<b>ANDREWS, JOHN</b>	USA
4	<b>ANWAR, WAGIDA</b>	EGYPT
5	<b>BELPOGGI, FIORELLA</b>	ITALY
6	<b>BERLIN, MATHS</b>	SWEDEN
7	<b>BINGHAM, EULA</b>	USA
8	<b>BRAUTBAR, NACHMAN</b>	USA
9	<b>BULAT, PETAR</b>	SERBIA
10	<b>CASTELEYN, LUDWINE</b>	BELGIUM
11	<b>CASTLEMAN, BARRY</b>	USA
12	<b>CHERNIACK, MARTIN</b>	USA
13	<b>COMBA, PIETRO</b>	ITALY
14	<b>CRANOR, CARL</b>	USA
15	<b>CRESPI, MASSIMO</b>	ITALY
16	<b>DE ROSA, CHRISTOPHER</b>	USA
17	<b>DOBBIN, DENNY</b>	USA
18	<b>EMBER, ISTVAN</b>	HUNGARY
19	<b>ENGLUND, ANDERS</b>	SWEDEN
20	<b>ETZEL, RUTH</b>	SWITZERLAND
21	<b>FORASTIERE, FRANCESCO</b>	ITALY
22	<b>FRANK, ARTHUR</b>	USA/ITALY
23	<b>FRONEBERG, BRIGITTE</b>	GERMANY
24	<b>FUCIC, ALEKSANDRA</b>	CROATIA
25	<b>GEE, DAVID</b>	DENMARK
26	<b>GRANDJEAN, PHILIPPE</b>	DENMARK
27	<b>GUO, YUE LEON</b>	TAIWAN
28	<b>HARARI, RAUL</b>	ECUADOR
29	<b>HARRISON, ROBERT</b>	USA
30	<b>HAY, ALASTAIR</b>	UK
31	<b>HEINZOW, BIRGER</b>	GERMANY
32	<b>HOEL, DAVID</b>	USA
33	<b>HRYHORCZUK, DANIEL</b>	USA
34	<b>JARVHOLM, BENGT</b>	SWEDEN
35	<b>JOSHI, TUSHAR</b>	INDIA
36	<b>LANDRIGAN, PHILIP</b>	USA
37	<b>LIOY, PAUL</b>	USA
38	<b>LUCCHINI, ROBERTO</b>	ITALY

39	<b>MCDIARMID, MELISSA</b>	USA
40	<b>MEHLMAN, MYRON</b>	USA
41	<b>MELIUS, JAMES</b>	USA
41	<b>MYERS, JONNY</b>	USA
43	<b>NATALI, PIER GIORGIO</b>	ITALY
44	<b>NGOWI, VERA</b>	TANZANIA
45	<b>NORDBERG, GUNNAR</b>	SWEDEN
46	<b>OLIVER, CHRISTINE L.</b>	USA
47	<b>PELCLOVA, DANIELA</b>	CZECH REP.
48	<b>POJE, GERALD V.</b>	USA
49	<b>RICE, CAROL</b>	USA
50	<b>RICHTER, ELIHU</b>	ISRAEL
51	<b>RINGEN, KNUT</b>	USA
52	<b>ROGAN, WALTER</b>	USA
53	<b>ROSENMAN, KENNETH</b>	USA
54	<b>SASCO, ANNIE J.</b>	FRANCE
55	<b>SASS, JENNIFER</b>	USA
56	<b>SILBERGELD, ELLEN</b>	USA
57	<b>SLY, PETER</b>	AUSTRALIA
58	<b>SOFFRITTI, MORANDO</b>	ITALY
59	<b>SORSA, MARJA</b>	FINLAND
60	<b>SOSKOLNE, COLIN</b>	CANADA
61	<b>STAYNER, LESLIE</b>	USA
62	<b>STRAIF, KURT</b>	FRANCE
63	<b>SUK, BILL</b>	USA
64	<b>TAKALA, JUKKA</b>	FINLAND
65	<b>TEITELBAUM, DANIEL</b>	USA
66	<b>TERRACINI, BENEDETTO</b>	ITALY
67	<b>THORBORG, MARINA</b>	DENMARK
68	<b>TOREN, KJELL</b>	SWEDEN
69	<b>VAN DAMME, KAREL</b>	BELGIUM
70	<b>WEDEEN, RICHARD</b>	USA
71	<b>WELCH, LAURA</b>	USA
72	<b>WICKRAMATILLAKE, HEMANTHA</b>	BRUNEI
73	<b>WOLFF, MARY</b>	USA

Total number of Fellows present: 73

In attendance:

Enrico Campedelli, Mayor of Carpi

Kathryn Knowles, Collegium Ramazzini General Secretariat

Jill Brazier, Honorary Fellow

The President welcomed Fellows to the 29<sup>th</sup> edition of Ramazzini Days and declared the meeting open.

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

As of 27 October, 63 members had written to the General Secretariat to apologize for their absence from the meeting (**Enclosure 1**). Fellows were reminded that it is helpful for the General Secretariat to receive regrets prior to 15 September of each year, the same deadline as for event registration.

### **2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2010 Council of Fellows**

The minutes of the Council of Fellows Meeting held on 23 October 2010 in Carpi were formally adopted by unanimous vote.

### **3. Mayor's Welcome and Medal Ceremony**

The Mayor of Carpi delivered a brief welcome address, translated by Kathryn Knowles. The Mayor stated that the annual hosting of the Ramazzini Days was a source of great satisfaction for the Town of Carpi. He also discussed the connection between the work of the Collegium Ramazzini and the decisions he must make as a local administrator, topics ranging from asbestos removal to the positioning of cellular phone receptors to the control of air pollution.

The President thanked the Mayor for his hospitality and offered the technical support of the Collegium on any scientific matters the local administration may face.

The meeting proceeded with the traditional medal ceremony. 11 members who had not previously been to Carpi were presented with their silver Ramazzini medals by the President, Secretary General and Mayor as follows:

1. ALBIN MARIA, Sweden
2. EMBER ISTVAN, Hungary
3. ETZEL RUTH, USA
4. GUO YUE LEON, Taiwan
5. HARRISON ROBERT, USA
6. OLIVER CHRISTINE L., USA
7. SLY PETER, Australia
8. STAYNER LESLIE, USA
9. TERRACINI BENEDETTO, Italy
10. WELCH LAURA, USA
11. WICKRAMATILLAKE HEMANTHA, Sri Lanka

An additional medal was presented at the end of the meeting to NATALI, PIERGIORGIO (Italy). Dr. Natali had attended the two previous editions of Ramazzini Days since his election in 2008, however, due to an administrative error, had not been presented with his medal. Apologies!

## **4. President's Report**

### **4.1 Obituaries**

This year the Collegium lost two of its Emeritus Fellows. President Landrigan read brief obituaries. Fellows were asked to stand and a minute of silence was held to honor the following Fellows.

#### **Emeritus Fellow Louis S. Beliczky, January 5, 2011**

As former Industrial Hygiene and Safety and Health Director for the United Rubber Workers, he is remembered by his colleagues as a pioneer who devoted his entire life to the cause of protecting working against occupational threats to health. Louis ("Lou") Beliczky grew up on the West Side of Cleveland and graduated in 1943 from St. Ignatius High School. Immediately upon graduation he enlisted in the US Marines, completed basic training at Parris Island, received advanced training at Bucknell University and became a demolition instructor. He was then selected to be the Marines' Hollywood film representative, but chose to serve with the 1st Marines. He fought as a combat Marine, Headquarters Company, in numerous battles including the battle of Kenushi Ridge at Okinawa. After the victory at Okinawa, he then continued serve with the 1st Marines in China repatriating Japanese soldiers and was honorably discharged in April, 1946. Under the GI Bill he attended and graduated with a BS from John Carroll University in 1949. He went on to attend graduate school at Kent State University and at the University of Pittsburgh receiving a MS and a Master's of Public Health, respectively.

He began his professional career as an industrial hygiene consultant and also worked with The Cleveland Clinic and Case Western Reserve University. In 1971 he was hired by the United Rubber Workers ("URW") as the first, full-time industrial hygienist employed by an industrial union in the US. Mr. Beliczky continued with the URW as their Director of Industrial Hygiene until his retirement in 1993. He was widely recognized as a pioneer in his field. He was the author of numerous workplace safety and health standards, was a consultant to and advised the US DOL, OSHA, CDC, NIOSH, NIEHS, and the World Health Organization and traveled extensively throughout the US, Europe and Asia. He was appointed Emeritus Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini, an international academy of noted worldwide experts in the field of occupational and environmental health. He was an honorary member of the American Industrial Hygiene Association, recipient of the J. William Lloyd Award for outstanding service in the cause of worker safety and health and was also named an Honorary Kentucky Colonel.

When not travelling the globe or promoting the cause of worker safety and health, he spent time with his family, played the violin, squash and tennis, sang with the Cleveland Singers' Association, was an avid gardener and woodworker, and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was also very active with the Marine Corps League at the local and state levels and was very proud of his Hungarian heritage, also being fluent in Hungarian and German.

#### **Emeritus Fellow Yasunosuke Suzuki, August 8, 2011**

Professor Yasunosuke Suzuki. Professor Suzuki was an influential member of the Collegium and was honored with the Ramazzini Award in 1993 for his contribution to the scientific knowledge on the pathology of mesotheliomas among asbestos-exposed workers. Upon his retirement from the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 2006, the Collegium Ramazzini

again honored Professor Suzuki with the Irving J. Selikoff Award to recognize his many years of work as a pathologist who meticulously studied the diseases caused by asbestos and who also ventured forth courageously from his laboratory, as a true follower of Ramazzini and Selikoff, to press the urgent need in nations around the world for the banning of all production and use of all forms of asbestos. In fact, Dr Suzuki played a critical role in the decision by the Government of Japan to ban all use of asbestos in Japan.

Collegium Ramazzini President Philip Landrigan remembers the occasion of the Selikoff award noting "(It) was a bittersweet occasion. Dr. Suzuki served as a member of the faculty of the Department of Community and Preventive Medicine at Mount Sinai for 40 years. While there are many of us still at Mount Sinai who worked with Dr. Selikoff as junior faculty, students and trainees, Dr. Suzuki is the last member of the "Selikoff generation" the group of age peers who worked most closely with Dr. Selikoff for so many years in Dr. Selikoff's pioneering studies of other asbestos and other occupational hazards."

Professor Suzuki received his M.D. degree from the Keio University School of Medicine in Tokyo in 1953. He completed one year internship in Tokyo at the Setagaya National Hospital, and was licensed in 1954 by the Japanese Government. In 1954 he joined the Department of Pathology in the Keio University School of Medicine starting as an "Assistant of Pathology". Dr. Suzuki's early work on the kidney he proved the presence of the mesangium, the third structural element of renal glomerulus. Working with new technology - the electron microscope, he was able to further define the structure of the mesangium. In 1959, he was awarded the Doctorate of Medical Sciences in the field of Pathology. In 1960 he was sent abroad as an International Post Doctoral Research Fellow at the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) training at New York University School of Medicine under Professor Johannes Rhodin. In 1961 he trained at the Mount Sinai Hospital Renal Pathology Division under Dr. Churg. He returned to Keio University 1962 as a faculty member. In 1966, Dr. Suzuki was invited to re-join Mount Sinai as a Research Associate. In addition to renal pathology with Dr. Churg, he started to investigate pathology of asbestos related diseases with Dr. Dr. Irving J. Selikoff.

The research on asbestos related diseases included seminal work on pulmonary asbestosis, the development and formation of asbestos bodies and electron microscopy of human malignant mesothelioma. In 1973, Dr. Suzuki again returned to Japan to serve as Chairman and Professor of Anatomy at Fujita-Gakuen University School of Medicine. He returned to Mount Sinai in 1975 as Research Professor of Community Medicine and Research Associate Professor of Pathology. For the next 31 years, from 1975 to 2006, he devoted his time solely to the investigating the pathology of asbestos related diseases. One of his most significant contributions was providing support to Selikoff's ground-breaking epidemiological study on asbestos insulation workers. Slide by slide, he reviewed the pathologic autopsy and biopsy samples taken from approximately 5,000 cases of insulation workers and confirmed the diagnosis of asbestos related diseases. He was promoted to Professor of Pathology in 1989 and in 1991 to Professor of Community and Preventive Medicine.

Dr. Suzuki published 171 peer review scientific papers. Dr. Suzuki estimated that over the course of his career in research, he had examined and written up approximately 538,000 individual slides. Suzuki received several honors in addition to those conferred by the Collegium Ramazzini. Other awards include the honorary title of Guest Professor at Tokai University School of Medicine (1993-1996) and Honorary Visiting Professor of Pathology at Keio University School of Medicine (1999-2000).

David Gee shared memories of Lou Beliczky and remembered how he had negotiated a deal whereby a certain amount of dollars per unit of rubber production was put aside for health research on behalf of workers. At the time it seemed less important because there was a great deal of public funding in this area. Gee proposes that this idea be promoted today by the Collegium Ramazzini and that he had personally used it the previous month when talking with the cellular phone industry. Landrigan thanked Gee and noted that this model existed for many years in the auto industry as well.

#### 4.2. Membership status

Prior to the meeting of the Executive Council held the previous evening, the number of active Fellows on the roster was 179. The number of Emeritus Fellows was 33. As provided in the bylaws, membership in the Collegium Ramazzini is limited to 180 active members. There is no lower limit for the number of active members nor is there a limit for the number of Emeritus members.

Each year the General Secretariat examines the membership roster and evaluates membership activity based on three criteria: 1) participation in the life of the Collegium; 2) attendance at the annual meeting in Carpi; 3) payment of annual dues. Based on this analysis, the Executive Council reaches out to Fellows who have not been active in the Collegium on any of the above counts for at least five or more years. Letters may take one of two forms. The first is an outreach letter inviting Fellows to return to the Collegium the following year or to consider deactivating their membership to make room for a new generation of Fellows. The second is an invitation to change membership status and become an Emeritus Fellow of the organization.

In addition to reviewing the responses to the aforementioned membership letters (19 in 2011), the Executive Council unanimously accepted the request of Dr. ANNA TOMPA (Hungary) to become an Emeritus Fellow. The Executive Council also accepted the voluntary resignation of Dr. MAY HERMANUS from South Africa (elected 2006, never attended) and Dr. IVAN GUT from the Czech Republic (elected in 1985, retired).

#### Membership Status change from Active to Emeritus Fellow as of October 28, 2011

1. ARAKI, S., JAPAN (Male)
2. FALK, H. USA (Male)
3. NEEDLEMAN, H., USA (Male)
4. TOMPA A., Hungary (Female)
5. HUFF J., USA (Male)
6. NIEMEIR, R.W., USA (Male)
7. OMENN, G., USA (Male)
8. PERSHAGEN, G, Sweden (Male)
9. RIBAK, J. USA (Male)
10. ROSENSTOCK, L., USA (Female)

#### Deactivation of membership as of October 28, 2011

1. GUT, IVAN, Czech Republic (Male)
2. HERMANUS, MAY, South Africa (Female)

Following these decisions, the number of active Fellows (prior to considering new nominations) was 166 (119 men, 47 women). The number of Emeritus Fellows was 43 (41 men, 2 women).

#### 4.3. Nominations

The President reminded Fellows of the procedure for nominating candidates for membership in the Collegium.

Nominations for membership in the Collegium Ramazzini should be submitted electronically to the Office of the General Secretary prior to August 1st for consideration during the Annual Ramazzini Days meeting in October. For each candidate, in addition to his or her short curriculum vitae, the nominator(s) shall provide to the Office of the Secretary General a one-page presentation of the following information:

- 1) a summary of the candidate's background and achievements in his or her area of work;
- 2) a statement on the role and contributions of the candidate toward fulfilling the mission of the Collegium "to advance the study of occupational and environmental health issues and to be a bridge between the world of scientific discovery and the social and political centers which must act on the discoveries of science to protect public health";
- 3) an indication of the commitment of the candidate to the work of the Collegium Ramazzini, including the likelihood of his or her ability to attend meetings.

Each nomination must be seconded in writing (electronically) by another Fellow of the Collegium Ramazzini. Nominations are considered valid for a period of 3 years; updated information about the candidate may be submitted on an annual basis.

President Landrigan reported that the Executive Council had reviewed this year's list of nominees (n. 14 total), together with those deferred from 2009 (n. 6) and 2010 (n. 5). The full CVs and recommendation letters of all candidates had been circulated to the membership in advance of the Ramazzini Days meeting. The master list of nominations is included as Enclosure 2.

The Executive Council had given careful consideration to each of these nominees and, following three hours of discussion, selected 11 candidates for membership, 9 men and 2 women.

The names of the newly elected Fellows were read by the Chair:

1. BLANC, PAUL D., USA (Male)
2. CHEN, JIA, China/USA (Female)
3. EASTMOND, DAVID, USA (Male)
4. FINKELSTEIN, YORAM Israel, (Male)
5. JEEBHAY, MOHAMED, South Africa (Male)
6. KANG, SEONG-KYU, Korea (Male)
7. LAMBERTINI, LUCA, Italy (Male)
8. NEMERY DE BELLEVAUX, BENOIT, Belgium (Male)
9. SHENG WANG, MD, MPH, China (Male)
10. SOTO, ANA, USA/Argentina (Female)
11. YOKOYAMA, KAZUHITO, Japan (Male)

The Council of Fellows applauded these choices. Following the election of these new Fellows the Collegium is comprised of 177 Fellows (128 men, 49 women) and 43 Emeritus Fellows (41 men, 2 women).

The full membership roster and mailing list would be updated with new members and with any changes indicated by members during Ramazzini Days and subsequently distributed to all members electronically (**Enclosure 3**).

The President called the body's attention to the graphic analysis of the membership included in the meeting folders. He commented that the gender balance of the organization is improving somewhat (3:1 men:women as opposed to a few years prior at 5:1). He noted that the breakdown of tenure is a positive data point. 100 Fellows have been elected since 2000, showing that the organization is actively working on renewal. The President encouraged the body to keep their eyes open for "rising stars" in the fields of environmental and occupations medicine. While it is true that the Collegium seeks senior people as members, it also seeks scientists in the ascending phase of their careers.

#### 4.3.1. Modification to Nomination Guidelines

The President reported that during the previous evening's meeting of the Executive Council it had been decided to add additional specificity to the one-page letter of recommendation required in the nomination materials. Specifically nominators are asked to illustrate not only the scientific merit of an individual but also his or her societal commitment in terms of translating science into policy. The President invited Councillor Karel VanDamme to take the floor and to illustrate this point.

VanDamme emphasized how important it is for the Executive Council to understand the specific positions and actions of nominees that demonstrate their societal commitment. Membership on committees or commissions is not enough. He requested that nominators be more complete and precise in this area.

The Executive Council will fine-tune the language of these modified guidelines and make them available to the membership in 2012.

*(KK: Updated guidelines were posted on the CR website and communicated to the membership. See website under About > Membership and nominations > <http://www.collegiumramazzini.org/about01.asp>)*

#### 4.4 Results of the Election of Executive Council Officers in 2011

The President asked the Secretary General to report on the results of the elections for the positions of President and 3 Councillors. Ballots were mailed electronically to Fellows and returned by post to the General Secretariat. Fellows who asked to return their ballot as electronic attachments were allowed to do so. Electronic ballots were separated from the e-mail cover letter to maintain anonymity.

6 candidates were nominated for Councillor, 1 candidate was put forth for President. Write-in votes were permitted.

66 ballots were received prior to the stated deadline of 10 October 2011. Ballots were counted by Drs. David Hoel and Morando Soffritti.



The Secretary General read the results of the election.

President: PHILIP J. LANDRIGAN, USA

Councillors:

BRIGITTE FRONEBERG, Germany

JAMES MELIUS, USA

KAREL VANDAMME, Belgium

The Council of Fellows applauded these choices. The President thanked Massimo Crespi for his service on the Executive Council.

Danny Teitelbaum expressed concern that in an organization of nearly 180 members only 66 Fellows returned ballots. He said that this signalled that something does not work – either a procedural question or that we have not communicated the importance of voting. He invited colleagues to discuss this question.

Landrigan asked Kathryn Knowles to illustrate the voting procedure. Nominations are collected until September 1. It was determined that e-mail is the most cost-effective and efficient way to reach Fellows. Prior elections used postal ballots with a cost of over 500 euro the organization. The ballot was transmitted electronically as a pdf file for the first time on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Fellows were asked to complete the ballot and return by post by October 11<sup>th</sup> (4 weeks). The postal return was maintained for reasons of anonymity. Nevertheless Fellows who requested to return ballots by e-mail were allowed to do so. Knowles noted that for the next election the General Secretariat would like to consider electronic voting.

Ellen Silbergeld intervened to state that she agreed with Teitelbaum's affirmation and raised a mild protest that the body seemed to be speeding through the agenda very quickly. She noted that there was no time to discuss the graphic presentation of the membership breakdown which she continues to find disconcerting, in particular with regard to gender balance and in relation to the election of a predominately male and North American slate of candidates. She cautioned that the organization not get caught up in the mechanics of voting, but rather try to understand *why* people are not voting. She suggested sending out a survey to ask Fellows why they are not participating.

Walter Rogan yielded the point of representativeness to Ellen Silbergeld. He noted that no one prints out a piece of paper and puts a stamp on it. He said we must move to electronic voting and that no other organization he belongs to requires him to put something in the mail. Landrigan asked Rogan to illustrate how other professional societies vote. Rogan responded that for 8 years SER has been using a web-based form to vote. Rogan also noted that it would be helpful to receive summaries or position statements from candidates about why he or she is running for office. He noted that the impetus to vote comes from thinking your vote is going to matter. Fewer candidates with less information discourages this.

Aleksandra Fucic added that she thinks the low voter turn-out is a result of poor communication and that the Collegium Ramazzini website can be improved to include subgroups based on interest. She noted that this would also help Fellows to get more engaged with the organization.

Jennifer Sass admitted to having printed out the ballot but did not mail it in. She says the reason she did not vote is because one of the offices was uncontested and she was happy

with the nominee. The other reason is that she felt that she did not know all of the candidates and did not want to unfairly vote for those that she knew personally. She therefore abstained so as to not “vote against” anyone on the ballot. She noted that service to the Collegium is a voluntary “labor of love” and felt supportive of all candidates who had volunteered.

Marja Sorsa noted that the Collegium website works well. She notes that everyone suffers from information overflow and receives an improbable number of e-mails. She therefore suggests sending out a reminder e-mail about voting two weeks after the first sending, encouraging members to complete the ballot.

Carl Cranor added that for something critical like voting another possibility is to signal the urgency of the communication in the header.

Petar Bulat stated that he is in favor of electronic voting but he believes the low turn-out is actually reflective of the limited engagement of members with the organization. He noted that he sees the same 60 or so Fellows every year in Carpi and therefore assumes that this is actually the interested number of Fellows.

Landrigan pointed to the analysis now being undertaken by the General Secretariat each year to monitor which members are actually active in the life of the Collegium. It is an ongoing effort.

Martin Cherniack commented that he is not sure what the problem is. There is an established group of people who attend, pay dues and probably vote. If the question is why a larger group is not more active, that is a somewhat different question. If the question is how do you increase the number of people who vote whether they are active or not, that is a different question. If the goal is the latter – more people voting regardless of involvement – then that is a technical matter. He noted that he had just experienced this in his own institution and that voter turn-out had improved from 30% to 90%. He noted however that people are no more involved than they were before.

Roberto Lucchini asked to return to the membership statistics. He asked to see age distribution in future analysis. He would also like to see trends from year to year, particularly with regard to the gender gap. Knowles noted that the last time these numbers were analyzed was 2008 and that 5 women have been elected to the Collegium during that period. She offered to include both the 2008 and 2011 membership statistics in the minutes (**Enclosure 4**).

Karel VanDamme spoke on the question of gender balance and suggested that women propose women. He noted that his year’s female nominees were proposed by male nominators.

It was suggested by a member that voting be handled during meetings. Myron Mehlman pointed out that this would be inconsistent with the bylaws. Mehlman noted that years ago 90% of the members voted.

Teitelbaum closed the point by saying that the matter had been adequately discussed and that the reason he raised it was that so the Executive Council can address the concern prior to the next election. He highly recommends that the Collegium move to web-based voting.

Landrigan thanked everyone for their comments and asked the General Secretariat to investigate electronic voting and prepare a proposal.

Robert Harrison made the connection between voting, involvement and expectations. He suggested creating a welcome kit of information to help new members understand what is expected of them (dues, meeting attendance, voting, ways to become involved, etc). Harrison volunteered to help put this information together. He also volunteered to have new member cocktail hour at the meeting so as to be able to ask questions etc.

*(KK: Newly-elected members received an informational document together with their notification of election (Enclosure 5). Many thanks to Bob Harrison for this contribution.)*

Birger Heinzow offered his support in identifying software solutions to be employed for electronic voting. He noted that the system must be simple, transparent and confidential. Heinzow has expertise in his family in this area and believes he will be able to assist in keeping the project at a low price point for the Collegium.

Alastair Hay returned to the point of gender balance in the organization. He asked if the Executive Council has a strategy for increasing these numbers and noted that if we carry on with the 2008-2011 trend of 5 new women elected it will be the next century before the organization has near-equality. Hay recognized that the President had invited members to look out for qualified candidates but asks if there is a more specific plan for recruiting women.

Landrigan noted that this year the Executive Council reviewed 14 new nominations. Of the new nominees there were only 2 women, one of whom was elected. The other woman elected in 2011 had been deferred from a previous slate. What is needed most of all is more women nominees.

Ellen Silbergeld said that with all due respect to her friend Alastair she thought she had passed by the era in which we all sat in a room and wondered where the women are. She noted that her department at Johns Hopkins is looking for a new chair. And the same question has been raised by the search committee in this case. Silbergeld noted that 80% of the students in public health are women, so where are they going?

Colin Soskolne noted that the next election is not in 2012, but in 2013. The President confirmed this timeline.

*(KK: In 2013 the Collegium will hold elections for the office Treasurer (4-year term) and the office of 3 Councillors (3-year term))*

Nachman Brautbar noted that the Fellows who have expressed strong opinions about nominating women have not done so themselves.

Annie Sasco said that there is a generation effect and noted the mean age of people in the room. She continued that it is indeed challenging to nominate senior women to this kind of setting. She pointed out that the Collegium must think about nominating younger people, not for lifetime achievement, but for a promising future. In this case we can then put an emphasis on nominating young women and young women from the south in particular. Sasco said that you cannot expect a 40-year old woman in Africa to have her research known on the world scale. Will these candidates be accepted even if their CVs are not as strong?

Teitelbaum suggests that perhaps the time has come to implement mandatory Emeritus status. If we were to decide that at X age Fellows become Emeritus Fellows, then we could move a third of our white males to Emeritus status and have plenty of room for women. The reality is that these are all relatively unpleasant choices for the organization. He would like to put this on the table again as something to think about. He stated his own willingness to become an Emeritus Fellow.

Daniela Peclova stated that we should not dwell too long on the gender question. In the Czech Republic there are very few women in leadership positions and she is actually very happy to see so many women present at Ramazzini Days. She would like to stress first and foremost the qualifications of nominees, not their gender.

Ruth Etzel suggested to the chair that this kind of task is ideally suited to a small subcommittee and that she would be very happy to join others in a committee that would target its efforts in finding qualified candidates for the organization. She added that she does not agree that Emeritus status should only be based on age, but rather on contributions to the society. She suggested a five-year review of criteria such as meeting participation, involvement in preparing statements or other deliverables, to then judge "paper for performance".

President Landrigan gratefully accepted Ruth Etzel's offer to form a membership subcommittee. He noted that merit-based Emeritus status review is conducted every year rather than every five. He noted again that Emeritus status is not automatic. It is a combination of reaching a certain age and service to the Collegium.

David Gee noted that he usually loves Danny Teitelbaum's contributions over the years, but this one of "shovelling us off at a certain age" is rubbish. Gee notes that Bernardino Ramazzini died at age 86 while lecturing to his students. One of the problems with recruiting women is that we just don't do it. Gee recalls proposing newly-elected Ana Soto. He has been thinking of names during the meeting and cited Elisabeth Cardis and Susan Joblin.

*(KK: Bernie was 81 at the time of his death in 1714. Cannot confirm or deny what he was doing at the time. A great presentation by Fellow Giuliano Franco is available on the CR website > About > History <http://www.collegiumramazzini.org/download/FRANCO06.pdf>)*

Eula Bingham asked Danny Teitelbaum if old women have to retire too! Bingham underlined that women in the room have to find women and nominate them. She noted that it has been very disappointing that this has not occurred often to date. Bingham challenged the women in the Collegium to be "mothers and sisters". Bingham believes that at some point in time the Collegium must invite people to leave after they have been inactive for five years.

President Landrigan welcomed Eula Bingham to join forces with Ruth Etzel to form the membership committee.

*\*\*The meeting paused for morning coffee\*\**

#### 4.5 Activities of the Collegium Ramazzini

The President invited Knut Ringen to update the membership on the 16th statement “The safety and health of migrant labour: a call to the international community for action”.

Ringen reported that the statement is complete and available on the CR website. He thanked a number of Fellows for their contributions including Ellen Silbergeld, Raul Harari and Jacobo Finkelstein. He noted that if Fellows have something to add to the statement this is acceptable and that it can be considered a living document. Ringen added that he hopes the Collegium will continue to push for some of the actions that are recommended in the document. Ringen reminded the group that 1/3 of the world’s population relies on remittances from migrant workers.

Landrigan noted that when fellow Jukka Takala was at the ILO he was very involved in issues surrounding migrant workers. Takala noted that this work continues in the European Union and is not just for the international organizations. He too would like the Collegium to be more active in this area.

Piergiorgio Natali said that he would like to see a paragraph added about legal/illegal migrants. In many countries where a national health service exists legal migrants have access. With illegal migrants this is a much larger problem. He suggested that one of the calls for action in the document be strengthened to suggest that all health benefits be extended to migrant workers in any given country.

A member raised two questions. She noted that the UN had adopted a convention on the rights of migrant workers but that the receiving countries have not yet ratified it. She wonders if it wouldn’t be some progress if the Collegium encouraged receiving countries to ratify the convention? She added that directives which require EU public expenditures to go out for bidding have created a “race to the bottom” in terms of working conditions. She noted that there are now efforts to include working conditions into these contracts. She asked if would be possible to incorporate mention in the statement.

Ringen responded that the International Social Security Association (ISSA) has a declaration that makes reference to this. He noted that some developments have emerged since the time the statement was first drafted two years ago and renewed his invitation to write up any new issues and send them to his attention.

Jukka Takala proposed that this issue be taken to the WHO-ILO joint committee. This would be an important forum to raise its profile. He offered to write language for the statement on this point.

Teitelbaum noted that there is little mention of illegal migration. He stated that in the US the topic of illegal migrant workers has become a hot political issue; he feels that the need to protect illegal as well as legal migrants should be emphasized.

Carl Cranor suggested using the language documented/undocumented rather than legal/illegal. He also suggested incorporating information about other levels of cooperation (state, local community) rather than just national governments. He believes that the Collegium could grow capacity by using this statement to prompt discussion locally and regionally in the US.

Elihu Richter said that his friends in other fields tell him that migrant labor has overlap with human trafficking in women and drugs. He suggested the need to explore this overlap. Ringen noted that this is covered but invited Richter to supply additional language.

Colin Soskolne asked if the document addresses the issue of internally displaced people. This is a concept noted in UN language and a growing problem in areas of the former Soviet Union. He added that this issue is likely to increase with “eco-refugees”. Ringen confirmed that this is well-covered and that the statement is about domestic as well as international migrants.

The President then directed the group’s attention to a WHO draft paper on nanomaterials and cover letter provided by Fellow Vyvyan Howard. Landrigan recalled the 2008 CR scientific session on nanotech. He relayed tht Vyvyan wanted members to see the document but was not allowed to submit it electronically.

Ringen noted that the document is very thorough and addressed much of what was raised in Council of Fellows discussion in 2010. He also had praise for the new current intelligence bulletin that NIOSH has put out, saying that it has done a lot to remedy the lack of knowledge that we had just one year ago.

Jennifer Sass took the opportunity to update the membership on two of her projects related to nanotechnology. The first is a corporate intelligence report on nanotech being conducted by Lux Research – where investments are going, what materials are being invested in, by which companies, where the companies are located etc. This work was not commissioned by the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC), but rather by a different coalition of NGOs and activists. The report should be available in December 2011. The second project is related to the “green screen”, a screening-level hazard assessment being modified to now also look at nanomaterials. A scientific committee has identified five different nanomaterials and the applications of these materials (e.g. nanosilver in textiles). Sass has recently learned that Hewlett-Packard is undertaking a similar modification of the green screen. This screen will consider early life exposures, developmental and fetal effects, ecological effects, and physical properties. Wherever there is data it is used, areas with no data are coded red. Each product earns a score and the score advises a company whether or not they should proceed in product development. The modified green screen should be ready in mid-2012.

Elihu Richter pointed out that in the case of nanomaterials there is an extremely high ratio of surface area to volume. This means there is penetration into all tissues and this must be the basis of our concern about the potential toxic hazards. He then read from a text regarding precautionary strategies, noting that exposure thresholds cannot be established.

Landrigan brought the discussion back to the Collegium and asked the question if the body needs to put out a statement on nanomaterials. He presented the option of developing a statement or endorsing the work of Howard.

Richter added that at the recent conference in India a session was dedicated to this subject. He offered to make the material from the session available for a policy statement.

Ringen interjected that he had understood from the previous meeting that Howard and Steven Markowitz were beginning work on a nano statement.

Ellen Silbergeld said that the issue requires a more strategic response. There are a great deal of white papers and reports being developed and they more or less say the same thing. We need a clear statement about a series of recommended actions to be taken by a series of responsible parties. This would be more effective than another review. Silbergeld added with great respect to all present that it is quite important to be specific. She agrees with Howard to avoid invoking vague terms and generalizations. These are very complicated materials. Rather than saying a precautionary approach should be adopted, the Collegium should be quite explicit in terms of present steps. The focus should of course be on occupational exposure (which are ongoing and unavoidable) whereas the others are much less clearly defined. Silbergeld urges the Collegium not to reiterate the vast expanse of literature from national organizations, NGOs, industry etc which have not in her opinion moved this field ahead at all.

Paul Lioy noted that he appreciate concern for the workers, but reminded his colleagues that there are multitudes of applications of nanoparticles that have now gone from the workplace into the public. We are not just talking about just nanoparticles in their pure sense; in some cases they have surface coatings that try to keep them in their pure sense. But, for example, in the realm of cosmetics we find that nanoparticles agglomerate. The biggest concern about nanoparticles in the consumer environment is not the original latent stats of the nanoparticles but how it agglomerates, how it gets into the lung and what they do once they get there. Do they stay as an agglomerate? We have no clue to what this issue is in total. Beyond the occupational environment there is the fact that a multitude of new products come out every day that include nanomaterials. We do not yet understand the exposure issues for children as well as adults.

Eula Bingham agreed with the previous speaker. She points out that the toxicology of the various versions of nanos is missing. In the US the EPA is not doing anything; NIEHS is doing very little. We need some toxicology. If there is a white paper than we need to ask for this. At least in the US, if we are going to regulate nanos we must have data. Courts will not let us regulate without the toxicology data on animals or people. There needs to be a commitment of money and resources to doing this research.

Landrigan interjected to brief the group on how the issue was left in 2010. An informal group was created (Ringen, Melius, Bucher, Teitelbaum, Husgafvel-Pursiainen Howard, Cranor) to explore the Collegium's course of action in this area.

Aleksandra Fucic said that she would like to again make a point asserted by Bill Suk in the 2010 meeting. She noted that it is necessary to start from the pharmaceutical industry because they use nanoparticles in drug production and clearly have greater knowledge about the number of pathways. Some of the answers we are looking for are already there.

Daniel Teitelbaum noted that he has four graduate students working with EPA grant money on nanos, but it is on aquatic toxicology. Three of his students are working in the US, one in Australia. He questions if the FDA is going to do anything.

Silbergeld added that this is an unprecedented situation. We can call for more research, but in the meantime the industry is growing exponentially as it is the use of nanomaterials. The EU has approved the addition of nanomaterials to automotive fuels. We know what that does in terms of exposures. She does not believe that we have this time. She understands Bingham's point about the bind (data before regulation). Nevertheless if we accept this bind, we will not catch up with this technology. Silbergeld suggests that the Collegium think of a

clear statement of principles. What do we do at this point in time, when an industry is expanding enormously, no government is instituting requirements for testing and, by the time we gain this information, it will be 30 years before we have reliable research? This is challenging all of our thinking on this. What do we say in a compelling manner at this time? Other than saying we need to expedite the production of toxicological data. But the time we do this testing we will most certainly be surrounded by these materials.

Landrigan asked if a chair would come forward to create a working group.

Ringen, noting that he was not volunteering to chair, underlined the reason the Collegium should take up this issue is because it has extraordinary authority in the area of particles and in the area of fibers.

Fiorella Belpoggi shared her experience during an industry meeting on nanotechnology and health issues. Now that the Ramazzini Institute is certified as GLP it can also do testing for industry. Given her laboratory's experience with particulate matter she offered to perform a long-term bioassay on nanomaterials. She said that following this offer the discussion was closed very quickly. Belpoggi noted that after one week the Ramazzini Institute was no longer listed among the roster of laboratories recommended by FederChimica (Italian chemicals industries association). She therefore concludes that industry is not at all interested in the testing of nanoparticles. She feels that the long-term bioassay is crucial to understanding the long-term effects of these particles.

Jukka Takala noted that the Finnish Institute for Occupational Health has been the topic center for the European agencies coordinating all nano research in Europe funded by the European Union. He noted that Fellow Harri Vaino is a key person to involve. Takala added that billions of dollars are put into nano. He feels that the Collegium should advocate that some of this spending be set aside for safety and health.

Colin Soskolne found the discussion very compelling and asks if there is a precedent in the Collegium's recommendations to call for a moratorium on production in the public interest from a health point of view. Landrigan confirmed that this was indeed the case for asbestos. Soskolne pointed out that a moratorium is different than a ban.

Landrigan thanked Jennifer Sass for volunteering to coordinate a working group. Knowles offered to recirculate the guidelines drafted by Gregory Wagner regarding the procedure for formulating a statement (**Enclosure 6**).

Birger Heinzow suggested that the terms of reference should be drafted for this group so that the Collegium can also introduce external expertise. The issue is so complex. It has to be about fundamental principles about how to deal with such a group of compounds. It is a fight against commercial development and this will be very difficult.

Paul Liroy added that "keeping it general" is the only way to go. There are so many different products out there. General principals, such as environmental health, should be part of the development of new products. This is not revolutionary, but is nevertheless needed in this case. Liroy adds that in his experience with nano industry, there is really no understanding of what environmental health means. A statement must be short and sweet so that it is comprehensible by producers.



The President moved on to the next agenda item, reporting on the two advocacy letters written to Dr. Jean Charest, Premier National Academy Quebec and Russian Minister of Health Dr. Tatiana Golikova regarding asbestos (**Enclosure 7**). He acknowledged the contribution of Emeritus Fellow Joe Ladou and Fellows TK Joshi and Arthur Frank in this work. Landrigan invited Barry Castleman to update the body on the Canadian situation.

Castleman reported that last June Quebec was going to come up with 58M\$ as a loan guarantee to reopen a huge underground asbestos mine. Foreign investors, mainly from India, whose names have never been disclosed, were going to be the ones using the flag of Canada to sanctify the continuing export of asbestos to the developing world. 95% of all Canadian asbestos is exported. The promoter of the deal, an Indo-Canadian business man, had to go public to promote the deal and starting publishing statements in the Canadian press in which he misrepresented the WHO position. WHO contested this in the Canadian media; it was friend of the Collegium Ivan Ivanov (Bulgarian, head of occupational health on asbestos at WHO) who lead this effort. Castleman comments that it is interesting that a businessman had to come out to promote the project. What we infer from this is that the Indian investors are nervous. The effort to block this investment, mainly through publicity, has been going on for 16 months.

Knut Ringen noted that it has been a very intense year within the International Social Security Association (ISSA) about asbestos. At the world conference in Istanbul the Turkish organizer allowed the International Chrysotile Association to have a booth in which they had materials listing ISSA and WHO as eco-terrorist organizations. He also noted that the construction division of ISSA had been planning a symposium in Quebec in 2012 with the workers compensation authority of Quebec as the local organizer. The parliament of Quebec rescinded the budget authority. ISSA has sent a strong letter to the premier regarding the aforementioned mining deal asking that the loan guarantees be withdrawn. In addition ISSA has taken a strong position to exclude any pro-asbestos sponsor or speaker from taking part in their meetings.

Arthur Frank offered an update on Canadian politics. He mentioned the effort to question the medical ethics of a conservative member of the Canadian parliament, Kellie Leitch, who is also a pediatric orthopedic surgeon. Leitch has been asked to take a medical stand on asbestos but has never done so. Frank noted that calling into question the credentials of physicians is an example of the multiple ways to raise the attention of the government.

Peter Sly shared that as part of the program to engage in individual countries on asbestos, Australian colleagues have put together an editorial co-signed by the presidents of all relevant professional societies. As a result, the health department has picked it up and is now engaging with the College of Physicians, occupational health and public health people to set up a new regulatory authority that is going to oversee the declaration and removal of asbestos in housing. The documents ask a series of questions and the final one is "Is there anything else the Australian government should be doing in the external community/international community"? Sly noted that with this question there is an opportunity to reiterate the importance of using Australian influence to stop Canadian exports.

Colin Soskolne announced that the joint policy committee of the Societies of Epidemiology is putting together a position statement. This is the first time such a statement will be produced by epidemiologists (15 societies globally). Just though the wire this morning from colleague Kathleen Ruff is that the new Democratic party in Canada will be bringing

forward a motion to ban asbestos. This left-of-center party has recently lost its charismatic leader, but it is very encouraging that an asbestos ban will be part of its platform.

Alastair Hay asked the technical question, what do you do when they don't reply to your letters? Do you send a reminder? Landrigan responded that letters are sent via multiple channels and posted on the CR website for all to see. He added that much activity takes place off stage, such as working with Kathleen Ruff in Canada.

Soskolne added that he has been involved in the asbestos fight for 6 years and that he has received a reply to every letter, albeit many months later. The mantra is that the federal government of Canada has been promoting the safe use of asbestos and will continue to do so.

Annie Sasco called attention to a letter that she prepared prior to the UN committee on non-communicable diseases held in New York in September. The letter was directed to the UN Secretary General and to the WHO Director regarding the fact that the only resolution that emerges from these meetings is that people "should not smoke and should eat well". Sasco agrees that this is important, but is worried that the UN ignored issues of occupational and environmental health. They also ignored other diseases such as reproductive outcomes, psychiatric disorders etc. This letter – initiated by Sasco – was not an official CR letter but was signed by 165 scientists in 36 countries including 22 Collegium Ramazzini Fellows. She has not received a reply.

Elihu Richter suggests as a strategic and tactical approach in the campaign against asbestos to take the position that exposure to asbestos is a violation of the human rights to life and health. This has been used in India and Canada as a means of enlisting the interest of those who have a general and broad commitment to human rights in general but do not necessarily follow the scientific argumentation.

TK Joshi added that he has submitted a petition to the human rights commission in India. He noted that the commission is very sympathetic but has no power to take any action. They can only issue guidelines.

Richter reminded the group that there are now substitutes for asbestos available and that this should be emphasized more strongly. Barry Castleman has done a great deal of work in this area. Landrigan noted that the Collegium Ramazzini Statement does feature these alternatives.

## **5. Secretary General's Report**

### **5.1 Activities of the Collegium Ramazzini**

Secretary General Morando Soffritti reported on the Collegium Ramazzini conference held in Pécs, Hungary on 19-20 November 2010. The event was held in conjunction with the International Conference of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, Epidemiology, Disease Prevention and Control. Soffritti reported on notable participation from local scholars, in particular university students. He thanked Fellow Isvan Ember for organizing the meeting and noted that this is a model for regional training courses in the future.

The Secretary General then asked Arthur Frank to report on the International Conference on Emerging Trends in Preventing Occupational Respiratory Diseases and Cancers in the Workplace held 22-24, March, 2011 New Delhi, India.

Frank noted that the Conference, organized by the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health COEH, MAM<sup>7</sup> of New Delhi was supported by the Indian Ministry of Labour and Employment in scientific partnership with the Collegium Ramazzini, the Drexel University School of Public Health and the Heartland Hospital (NHS Trust) of Birmingham, West Midlands, UK. He reported that it was broadly attended by hundreds of participants, mostly from Southeast Asia. Frank thanked the Fellows who had come to India at their own expense to lecture and said that a detailed report was forthcoming in the European Journal of Oncology.

Frank also shared that TK Joshi runs the only academic unit (in 300 medical schools in India) devoted to occupational health. He and Carol Rice will be running another training program in December 2011 and invites Fellows who have the time and interest to join them in these ongoing efforts. He mentioned that another Fellow also engaged in capacity building in the region is Hemantha Wickramatillake from Sri Lanka who runs the occupational health program at the University of Brunei. Wickramatillake, like Joshi, is also in need of external assistance and international experts to lecture to students.

## 5.2 Upcoming events

The Secretary General invited Fellows to save the dates for a major Collegium conference being organized in Montevideo, Uruguay and Buenos Aires, Argentina in memory of beloved Collegium colleague Jenny Pronzuk de Garbino. The theme of the conference, to be held 22-24 March 2012 is “Environmental Health in Political Agenda” and is being organized by Fellows Lillian Corra and Amalia Laborde.

Landrigan added a few words about Jenny. He noted that the goal of the conference is to raise the level of knowledge of environmental health threats to children and recalled Raul Harari’s efforts in Quio, Ecuador in 2006. The scientific program is in an early phase and can be tailored to accommodate the expertise of any Fellows who are willing to participate as speakers. He noted that travel costs will not be covered but there is some budget for local hospitality. He again recognized and thanked LaBorde and Corra for their hard work as organizers.

Soffritti continued his presentation of future events by sharing a proposal of the regional government of Picardy, France to organize a symposium in the fall of 2012. One day of the event would be specifically dedicated to speaking with the press in Paris. Soffritti noted that this model of partnering with local institutions should be pursued in other countries. He specifically mentioned that the Collegium should continue to look toward Eastern Europe, Russia and Africa.

*[KK: plans for this event did not proceed]*

Landrigan invited Jonny Myers to announce the 12th Conference of the Scientific Committee on Neurotoxicology and Psychophysiology of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH) University of Cape Town, South Africa, March 24-27 2013. Myers noted that the conference is being organized by a semi-autonomous group. Lucchini is

the outgoing chair. It is the first time it will be held in Africa and only the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in developing world. The theme is global health and development in neurotoxicity. The objectives are to highlight challenges in developing countries. The organizers want to bring together global experts to discuss recent advances and methods to reduce the burden of disease from neurotoxic exposures. They also want to strengthen south-south and north-south collaboration. Myers continued that the goal is to raise funds to bring 40 people from the developing world to the conference and asks the Fellows for suggestions about potential funding sources. The Secretariat has agreed to send out via e-mail the conference flyer and fundraising letter to the membership following the meeting.

Wagida Anwar announced a conference in Qatar in March 2012 on environmental mutagens in human populations, chaired by herself and Fellow William Au. She offered to organize a satellite workshop with the Collegium Ramazzini. The program is available in the news area of the Collegium Ramazzini website.

Marja Sorsa shared information about a one-day event at the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health on December 1, 2011. This “research day” is dedicated to asbestos. New findings from Finland have emerged, in particular in the molecular area about specific susceptibilities. She noted that on the same day Fellow Jorma Rantanen will deliver a lecture and a prize will be awarded to former WHO collaborating center director and Collegium Ramazzini Fellow Ken Takahasi. Four additional Ramazzinians will also be active during this day.

Carl Cranor announced a recent success. He was involved in a case involving benzene and a rare form leukemias in the United States. The toxicological expert, Martin Smith, was excluded from the case. The plaintiffs appealed to the first circuit court of appeals and won. Since 1993 the US court system has been excluding experts for non-scientific reasons. If you don't get your experts in, the case is over. If you do get your experts in, at least they can talk to a jury. This case is wonderful in the sense that it stands as an example of many corrections in the US legal system. The only problem is that it only covers 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the US federal jurisdictions. Cranor wanted to mention it here because 10-15 Ramazzini Fellows had joined with Cranor and other scientists in signing an amicus brief which strengthened the case. It has now been appealed to the Supreme Court. He calls it “a shining example” for getting expert testimony heard in court.

Knut Ringen announced the 30<sup>th</sup> international symposium for construction safety in Boston, 16-18 October 2012. Anders England, Jim Melius and Ringen are involved. The conference is about transmitting evidence-based information about best practices to decision makers. Ringen invited Fellows to attend and participate as speakers.

## **6. Treasurer's Report**

By way of introduction to the Treasurer's report the President made opening remarks to frame the discussion. He noted that for many years the Town of Carpi has provided support to the Collegium in two ways: a cash contribution averaging 25/30K euro and support in-kind including the use of meeting rooms, drivers, logistics and staff work. As had been announced the previous year, in 2010 the town was forced to end their cash support of the conference.

In 2010 and 2011 the Collegium was able to host the meeting thanks to the support of the Ramazzini Institute. The President added that the Executive Council feels strongly about

continuing to hold annual meetings in Carpi but that it can no longer rely exclusively on funding from the Ramazzini Institute in Bologna, supported mainly by small contributions from individual volunteers.

Landrigan expressed to Fellows the need to change how we think about the meeting financially and that it can no longer be considered an entitlement. The President then turned the floor over to Treasurer Nachman Brautbar.

#### 6.1. Financial Report

Treasurer Nachman Brautbar began by directed Fellows to the financial report included in the meeting materials (**Enclosure 8**). He reported on the aggressive campaign to collect dues and arrears that had begun in 2010. He noted that thanks to this campaign the Collegium registered 35,000 USD in income in 2011 compared to 26,000 USD in 2010. He cautioned however that 9,000 of these funds were from a single institutional donor and that the dues collected is an artificially high number because it also represents arrears. Brautbar underlined that the campaign to collect past dues has really cleared off the balance sheet and that this source has now been exhausted. Past dues have been collected or debtors have been moved off the active books. The fees collected in 2011 have already been committed for the following year's expenses. He added that it will be extremely difficult to support travel or other meetings.

Brautbar reported on the number of Fellows who have paid their dues. In 2010 the number was 130; in 2011 this number decreased to 107.

He then spoke about optional conference registration, introduced for the first time in 2011. Only 14 Fellows out of 74 Fellows present paid into this optional registration. Brautbar noted that he felt disappointed by this result even though he understands that some Fellows do not have funds. He also noted that out of 30 spouses present the Collegium had only received payment for 17. This fee was not optional.

Brautbar thanked his team in California comprised of Ron Eliakim, Marge McGarry, and Art Swicker, together with the staff of the General Secretariat in Bologna, for their work on dues collection this past year. He then opened for questions.

Kathryn Knowles added her thanks to Nachman Brautbar and his team, noting that in 2011 the Collegium had moved to a single paypal system in which all accounts flow through the Treasurer's office. This means that all payments are denominated in dollars. She encouraged Fellows to settle accounts electronically. She repeated that there are indeed 13 spouses/guests present who need to settle accounts during the meeting.

The paypal system produces an itemized receipt for registration and spouse fees so this is the best way to make payments if a receipt is requested. If Fellows require different line itemization to be able to request institutional reimbursement for conference fees then the conference organization will be happy to update the system.

Arthur Frank invited the group to have a discussion about a mandatory registration fee. He noted that those Fellows who have difficulty paying dues could also be relieved of this obligation.

Landrigan added that the move toward mandatory fees is indeed inevitable. He emphasized how important it is for the Collegium to continue to meet on an annual basis rather than every two years.

Knut Ringen suggested that Fellows pay their own hotel bills. Knowles noted that the registration fee will cover this expense and that the conference hotels prefer to operate in this way rather than managing 77 individual accounts. The Collegium collects the fees and makes payments to its vendors. She underlined that any future registration fee will be used exclusively for these expenditures and that the organization seeks only to reimburse the real costs of the meeting. The three main cost centers are hotel accommodations, conference meals and ground transportation.

Colin Soskolne thanked the Treasurer for having outlined the revenue streams. He asked members to think about the ecological costs of the meeting, the footprint of flying to Italy etc. He asked if the Collegium would like to set an example for other organizations by meeting in person every other year and in the off years, conducting business by webinar.

Landrigan said that he recognized this concern but nevertheless comes down on the side of meeting in person annually. He feels that the society could not continue to function without the annual meeting. In addition to the business conducted, the informal encounters and meals held together are an important part of the life of the Collegium.

Ellen Silbergeld stated that the reality of the situation is that the Collegium will not be able to meet again unless we undertake some very drastic changes. She said she cannot understand how people are allowed to be members without paying dues or come to a meeting without paying the registration fees. The Collegium cannot meet every other year. We must decide here and now if we are going to move to a reality-based way of operating.

Landrigan asked for a motion to make conference registration mandatory. Myron Mehlman cautioned that this decision will reduce the number of people who will attend meetings.

Peter Sly is the chairman of a group called the Pacific Basin Consortium for Environment and Health. This group uses the WHO region scheme for setting dues and meeting fees. He says there is reason why the Collegium can't go down a similar route for reaching out to people in developing countries.

Annie Sasco stated that she considers herself among the Fellows who will not come back to Carpi if she doesn't receive financial support. She says that she paid her way this year but a low salary means that she cannot do this again. She noted that because she is a "trouble-maker" she does not have external support. She questions why Fellows with greater means do not pay their fees.

Jennifer Sass believes that the Collegium can decide to institute a fee in generic terms today and then a committee can be formed to develop the details.

Knowles illustrated the 3 streams of payment for the paypal shopping cart in 2011.

- 1) current dues payment + options regarding arrears;
- 2) optional meeting registration + mandatory spouse fees;
- 3) optional Jubilee donations to the Collegium Ramazzini from 25\$ to 250\$, used for travel support.

Kurt Straif requested a detailed overview regarding the number of non-paying Fellows. Brautbar repeated the numbers.

Paul Lioy requested a list of what Fellows will need to pay to be able to come to a meeting. He feels it is irresponsible for the Executive Council to allow people to attend meetings who have not paid their dues. He strongly agrees that mandatory conference fees must be instituted. He requested that a clear policy be expressed on the website.

Birger Heinzow made two motions. The first is to hold the meetings on a biannual basis and to conduct more work in committees. The second is to set up compulsory dues and compulsory registration fees, to be established on a sliding scale.

Colin Soskolne seconded the motion regarding biannual meetings.

Arthur Frank expressed that he would not be in favor. He noted that committees do little between meetings. Landrigan raised the point that the Priority Topics committee chaired by Melissa McDiarmid is very active all year.

Marja Sorsa strongly supported Arthur Frank his position regarding meeting frequency. She reminded Fellows of the spirit of the Collegium and thanked Fiorella Belpoggi for organizing the visit to Cesare Maltoni's home the day before. She noted the numerous volunteers of the Ramazzini Institute who have supported the Collegium over the years. She feels that Carpi is the spiritual home of the Collegium and that the group must meet every year to maintain the spirit of the organization.

Soskolne made a friendly amendment to his motion about exploring the possibility of hosting webinars.

Landrigan called the question of meeting every other year. Hands were raised and the motion failed.

The President then called for a second on the motion of instituting a double mandatory fee, one for dues and one for conference registration, noting that some Fellows would be eligible for subsidies. Peter Sly seconded the motion.

Ellen Silbergeld asked how an organization like the Collegium can continue to discuss subsidies. She reiterated her wish that the discussion be based on reality. This is a bitter pill that cannot be coated. She shares Marja Sorsa's reflection about the beauty of the annual meeting and warns her colleagues that it will cease to exist.

Daniel Teitelbaum requested to know the per capita cost of the meeting. Knowles explained that the registration fee more or less reflects the actual costs of the meeting. The registration fee covers hospitality costs: hotel accommodations, meals and ground transportation. The fee does not cover overheads of the conference organization. Teitelbaum added that he feels it is very important that the Collegium return to seeking external funding from national and international organizations, but still cover the meeting costs with registration fees.

Nachman Brautbar concluded the discussion by suggesting that Fellows pay a conference fee in the amount of the per capita costs to be covered (starting at 350 USD) and that the organization also seek external support.

Landrigan called the question to institute two mandatory fees: annual dues (existing) plus a new mandatory registration fee. The Fellows voted unanimously to pass the motion with one abstention.

*(KK: Following the meeting the Office of the General Secretariat extensive research was done regarding models for meeting fees. The Executive Council decided to institute a two-tiered system for the 2012 meeting. Fellows who are eligible for institutional support or reimbursement are asked to pay 450 USD toward their participation. Fellows who are individually responsible for their conference fees will be charged 350 USD. The spouse/guest fee has been lowered to 300 USD.)*

### **9. Dates of 2012 Ramazzini Days**

Next year's Ramazzini Days will be held in Carpi on 26-28 October 2012, with arrivals foreseen for the evening of Friday 26 October.

The President declared the meeting of the Council of Fellows closed at 1.30 p.m.

Enclosure 1: Apologies for absence

Enclosure 2: List of nominations for membership

Enclosure 3: Roster of Fellows and Emeritus Members

Enclosure 4: Membership statistics 2008 and 2011

Enclosure 5: Letter to New Members

Enclosure 6: Guidelines for CR Statements

Enclosure 7: Advocacy letters

Enclosure 8: Financial statement



# REGRETS RAMAZZINI DAYS 2011

*last updated 27.10.2011*

	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE		LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	DATE
1	ARAKI	SHUNICHI	10/09/2011	30	LANGAARD	SVERRE	12/10/2011
2	BAILAR	JOHN	18/07/2011	31	LANPHEAR	BRUCE	31/08/2011
3	BLAIR	AARON	02/05/2011	32	LEMEN	RICHARD	17/08/2011
4	BUCHER	JOHN	24/08/2011	33	LERMAN	YEHUDA	06/07/2011
5	CHRISTIANI	DAVID	22/07/2011	34	LONDON	LESLIE	23/02/2011
6	COGLIANO	VINCENT	16/09/2011	35	MARKOWITZ	STEVEN	14/09/2011
7	CORDIER	SYLVAIN	19/09/2011	36	McGLASHAN	NEIL	27/02/2011
8	CORRA	LILIAN	10/09/2011	37	MELNICK	RONALD L.	06/09/2011
9	DAVIS	DEVRA	28/10/2011	38	MILHAM	SAMUEL	19/07/2011
10	DEMENT	JOHN M.	09/09/2011	39	NEWMAN	LEE	26/10/2011
11	EHRlich	RODNEY	18/07/2011	40	NUWAYHID	IMAN	18/09/2011
12	FALK	HENRY	28/08/2011	41	OKUBO	TOSHITERU	22/07/2011
13	FINKELMAN	JACOBO	23/08/2011	42	OMENN	GILBERT	31/08/2011
14	FRANCO	GIULIANO	13/09/2011	43	OZONOFF	DAVID	24/10/2011
15	FRUMKIN	HOWARD	21/09/2011	44	POTT	FRIEDRICH	14/09/2011
16	GOCHFELD	MICHAEL	25/10/2011	45	RUCHIRAWAT	MATHUROS	12/09/2011
17	GOLDMAN	LYNN	18/07/2011	46	SAMUELS	SHELDON	18/07/2011
18	GOLDSTEIN	BERNARD	11/08/2011	47	SANTOS-BURGOA	CARLOS	25/10/2011
19	GREENBERG	MORRIS	18/07/2011	48	SONGNIAN	YIN	01/09/2011
20	HARDELL	LENNART	21/09/2011	49	SUK	BILL	27/10/2011
21	HERMANUS	MAY	22/08/2011	50	TAKAHASHI	KEN	19/07/2011
22	HOWARD	VYVYAN	17/10/2011	51	TARKOWSKI	STANISLAW	12/10/2011
23	HUFF	JAMES	03/10/2011	52	TASKINEN	HELENA	25/07/2011
24	HUSGAFVEL-PURSIAN	KIRSTI	07/09/2011	53	TOMPA	ANNA	20/10/2011
25	INFANTE	PETER	18/07/2011	54	VAINIO	HARRI	01/09/2011
26	JACKSON	RICHARD	19/07/2011	55	WAGNER	GREGORY R.	11/09/2011
27	JAKUBOWSKI	MAREK	19/07/2011	56	WARDENBACH	PETER	27/08/2011
28	KILBURN	KAYE	21/09/2011	57	WATTERSON	ANDREW	29/08/2011
29	LABORDE	AMALIA	12/09/2011	58	WEGMAN	DAVID	20/07/2011
30	LANGAARD	SVERRE	12/10/2011	59	WESSELING	INEKE	31/08/2011
				60	WHITE	ROBERTA	15/09/2011
				61	XIA	ZHAO-LIN	21/10/2011
				62	XINTARAS	CHARLIE	14/09/2011
				63	YANO	EIJI	20/09/2011

## **NOMINATIONS RECEIVED in 2011 (n. 14)**

### **1. BEANE FREEMAN, LAURA**

USA (Female)

*Tenure Track Investigator, Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch, Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA*

Proposed by BLAIR; Seconded by RINGEN

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### **2. BLANC, PAUL D.**

USA (Male)

*Chief of the Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of San Francisco, USA*

Proposed by TOREN; Seconded by LERMAN

\*\*\*

### **3. CHEN, JIA**

China/USA (Female)

*Professor, Departments of Preventive Medicine, Pediatrics and Oncological Sciences, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY, USA; Visiting Professor, The School of Life Science, Fudan University, Shanghai, China*

Proposed by LANDRIGAN; Seconded by WOLFF, CHRISTIANI

\*\*\*

### **4. EASTMOND, DAVID**

USA (Male)

*Professor and Chair of the Department of Cell Biology & Neuroscience at the University of California, Riverside, USA.*

Proposed by BRAUTBAR; Seconded by CRANOR, MEHLMAN

\*\*\*

### **5. GROOPMAN, JOHN**

USA (Male)

*Anna M. Baetjer Professor of Environmental Health and Chair of the Department of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health (1993- ); Professor of Oncology and Associate Director of Cancer Center for Cancer Prevention and Control, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Cancer Center (1994- ); Director, NIEHS Center in Urban Environmental Health, Johns Hopkins University (1996- ); Professor of Environmental Health Sciences, Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health (1992- )*

Proposed by SUK; Seconded by OZONOFF, BIRNBAUM

\*\*\*

### **6. JEEBHAY, MOHAMED**

South Africa (Male)

*Professor and Director (Occupational Health). Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health Research, School of Public Health and Family Medicine and Professor, Occupational Medicine Unit, Division of Respiratory Medicine, Department of Medicine, Health Sciences Faculty, University of Cape Town, South Africa*

Proposed by LONDON; Seconded by MYERS, EHRLICH

\*\*\*

### **7. KANG, SEONG-KYU**

Korea (Male)

*Director General, Occupational Safety and Health Research Institute (OSHRI), Korean Occupational Safety and Health Agency (KOSHA), Seoul, Republic of Korea*

Proposed by ARAKI; Seconded by LANDRIGAN

\*\*\*

### **8. LAMBERTINI, LUCA**

Italy (Male)

*Instructor, Molecular Epidemiology, Department of Preventive Medicine, Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY, USA*

Proposed by BUCHER; Seconded by BELPOGGI

\*\*\*

**9. MILLER, AUBREY K.**

USA (Male)

*Captain, US Public Health Service, Senior Medical Advisor Office of the Director, National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, National Institutes of Health, USA*

Proposed by DOBBIN; Seconded by BINGHAM, DEMENT, MIRER, RINGEN

\*\*\*

**10. NAIDOO, RAJEN**

South Africa (Male)

*Associate Professor: Occupational Medicine, Centre of Occupational and Environmental Health Faculty of Medicine, University of Natal, South Africa*

Proposed by LONDON; Seconded by MYERS, EHRLICH

\*\*\*

**11. NEMERY DE BELLEVAUX, BENOIT**

Belgium (Male)

*Full professor of medicine at the Medical School at the Katholieke Universiteit, Leuven, Belgium*

Proposed by SILBERGELD; Seconded by HEINZOW, LUCCHINI

\*\*\*

**12. VIOLANTE, FRANCESCO S.**

Italy (Male)

*Professor of Occupational Medicine, University of Bologna, Italy*

Proposed by CHRISTIANI; Seconded by LUCCHINI

\*\*\*

**13. WAISSMANN, WILLIAM**

Brazil (Male)

*Researcher Oswaldo Cruz Foundation - FIOCRUZ (Brazilian Ministry of Health) and Professor of the Human Ecology, Sérgio Arouca National School of Public Health (ENSP), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*

Proposed by SILBERGELD; Seconded by FINKELMAN, CLAUDIO

\*\*\*

**14. YOKOYAMA, KAZUHITO**

Japan (Male)

*Professor and Chairman, Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, Juntendo University Faculty of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan*

Proposed by ARAKI; Seconded by LANDRIGAN

\*\*\*

## **NOMINATIONS DEFERRED in 2010 (n.6)**

Candidates Elected in 2010 (n. 10 + 1 special emeritus member)

- **ISTAVAN EMBER, Hungary**
- **ROBERT J. HARRISON, USA**
- **AMALIA LABORDE, Uruguay**
- **LAURA WELSH, USA**
- **RUTH ANN ETZEL, USA**
- **SARI KOVATS, UK**
- **LESLIE THOMAS STAYNER, USA**
- **APTULLAH MURAT TUNCER, Turkey**
- **HEMANTHA D. WICKRAMATILLAKE, Sri Lanka**
- **LAUREN ZEISE, USA**
- **Benedetto Terracini (special Emeritus member)**

### **XAVER BAUR, MD**

Germany (Male, d.o.b 1947)

*Professor of Medicine, University Medical Centre, Hamburg, and Director, Institute for Occupational and Maritime Medicine, Hamburg, Germany*

Proposed by WOITOWITZ; Seconded by FRONEBERG

*Nomination originally deferred in 2007; not duly considered in 2009 due to misplaced files; special case for resubmission requested by EC.*

\*\*\*

### **HOWARD HU, MD, MPH, ScD**

USA (Male, d.o.b. 1952)

*Chair and Endowed Professor of Environmental Health Sciences in the School of Public Health and Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI*

Proposed by OMENN; Seconded by MEHLMAN

\*\*\*

### **DENIS NOVAK, MD, PhD**

Germany (Male, d.o.b. 1960)

*Head of the Institute of Occupational Health and Environmental Medicine, Munich, Germany.*

Proposed by HEINZOW; Seconded by GRANDJEAN

\*\*\*

### **MARK GREGORY ROBSON, PhD, MPH, ATS**

USA (Male, d.o.b. 1955)

*Dean of Agricultural and Urban Programs*

*Professor and Extension Specialist in Entomology (Primary) at Rutgers University – School of Environmental and Biological Sciences, New Jersey, USA.*

*Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health (Secondary) at University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey – School of Public Health, New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.*

Proposed by GOLDSTEIN; Seconded by MEHLMAN, BLAIR (added 2011), LEVY (added 2011)

\*\*\*

### **JOACHIM SCHNEIDER, MD**

Germany (Male, d.o.b. 1958)

*Provisional Director of the Institute and Outpatient Clinic for Occupational and Social Medicine of the Justus Liebig University of Giessen, Germany.*

Proposed by WOITOWITZ; Seconded by FRONEBERG

*Nomination originally deferred in 2007; not duly considered in 2009 due to misplaced files; special case for resubmission requested by EC.*

\*\*\*

### **RADIM SRAM MD, PhD, DSc**

Czech Republic (Male, d.o.b. 1956)

*Head of Laboratory of Genetic Ecotoxicology, Institute of Experimental Medicine of Acad.Sci.C.R., Prague, Czech Republic.*

Proposed by: SUK; Seconded by: GRANDJEAN, LANDRIGAN

\*\*\*

## **NOMINATIONS DEFERRED IN 2009 (n.5)**

Candidates Elected in 2009 (n. 5)

- Linda Birnbaum, USA
- Eun-Hee Ha, Korea
- Katzutaka Kogi, Japan
- Gunnar Nordberg, Sweden
- Thomas Donnelly, Ireland

### **YORAM FINKELSTEIN, PhD, MD**

Israel (Male, d.o.b. 1951)

*Head, Unit of Service of Neurology and Toxicology, Shaare Zedek Medical Center Jerusalem, Israel.*

Proposed by RICHTER; Seconded by TEITELBAUM; GRANDJEAN; LANDRIGAN

\*\*\*

### **JACQUELINE MOLINE, MD, MSc**

USA (Female, d.o.b. 1962)

*Professor and Chair of Population Medicine at Hofstra University School of Medicine, Long Island NY, USA.*

Proposed by LANDRIGAN; Seconded by SOFFRITTI

\*\*\*

### **ANA SOTO, MD**

USA/Argentina (Female d.o.b. 1946)

*Professor, Department of Anatomy and Cellular Biology, Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA.*

Proposed by HOWARD; Seconded by CORRA; SASCO

\*\*\*

### **JOEL TICKNER, ScD, MSc**

USA (Male, d.o.b. 1977)

*Associate Professor, Department of Community Health and Sustainability School of Health and Environment, University of Massachusetts Lowell, USA.*

Rank: Associate Professor

Proposed by CASTLEMAN; Seconded by: HUFF, INFANTE, KELSEY, MELNICK, OZONOFF, SASS, TEITELBAUM

\*\*\*

### **SHENG WANG, MD, MPH**

China (Male, d.o.b. 1946)

*Director of Department of Occupational Health, Peking University Health Science Center (PUHSC), Beijing, China.*

Proposed by RINGEN; Seconded by MELIUS

\*\*\*

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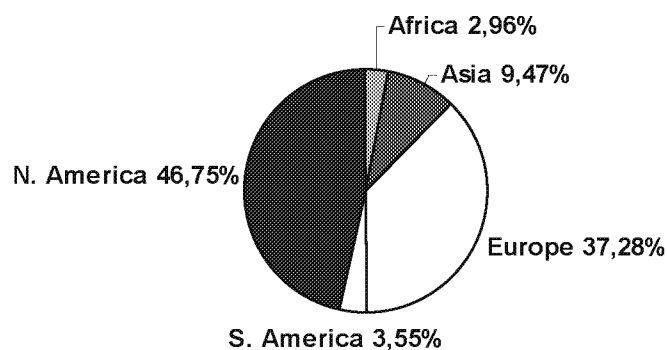
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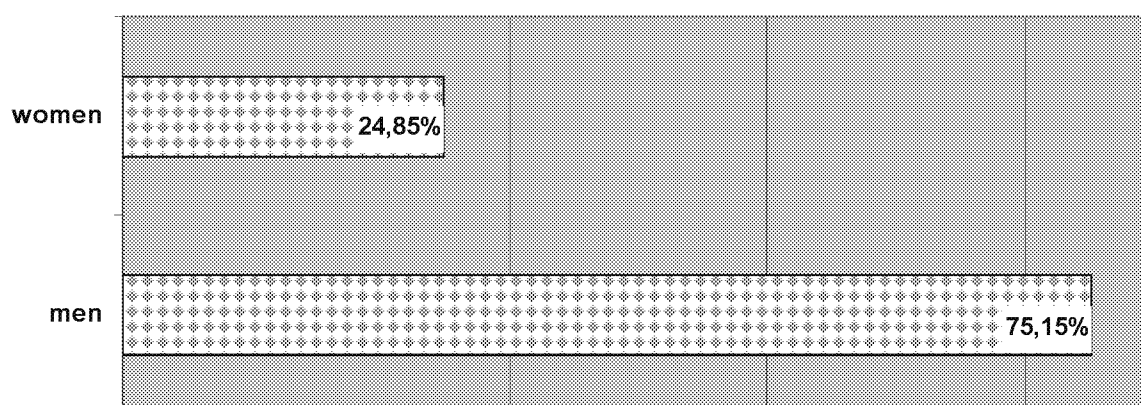
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# **GEOGRAPHIC AND GENDER DISTRIBUTION OF THE COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI FELLOWS OCTOBER 2008**

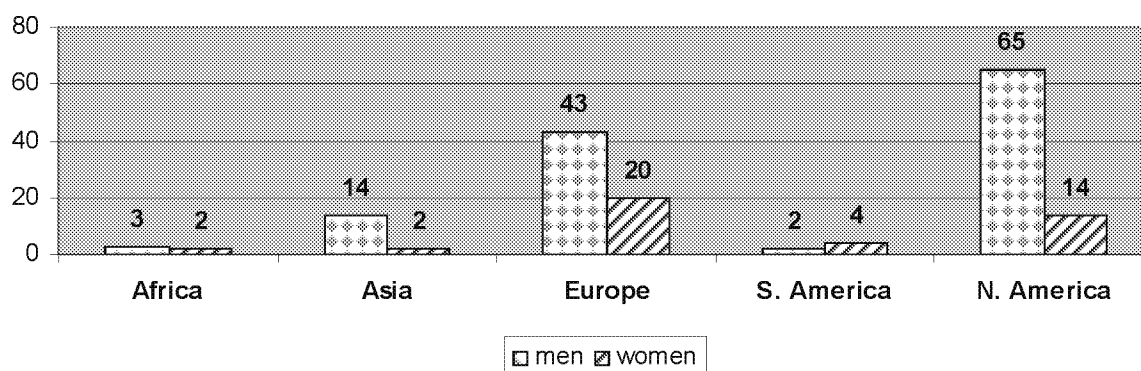
**Geographic distribution of CR Fellows by continent**



**Gender distribution of CR Fellows**

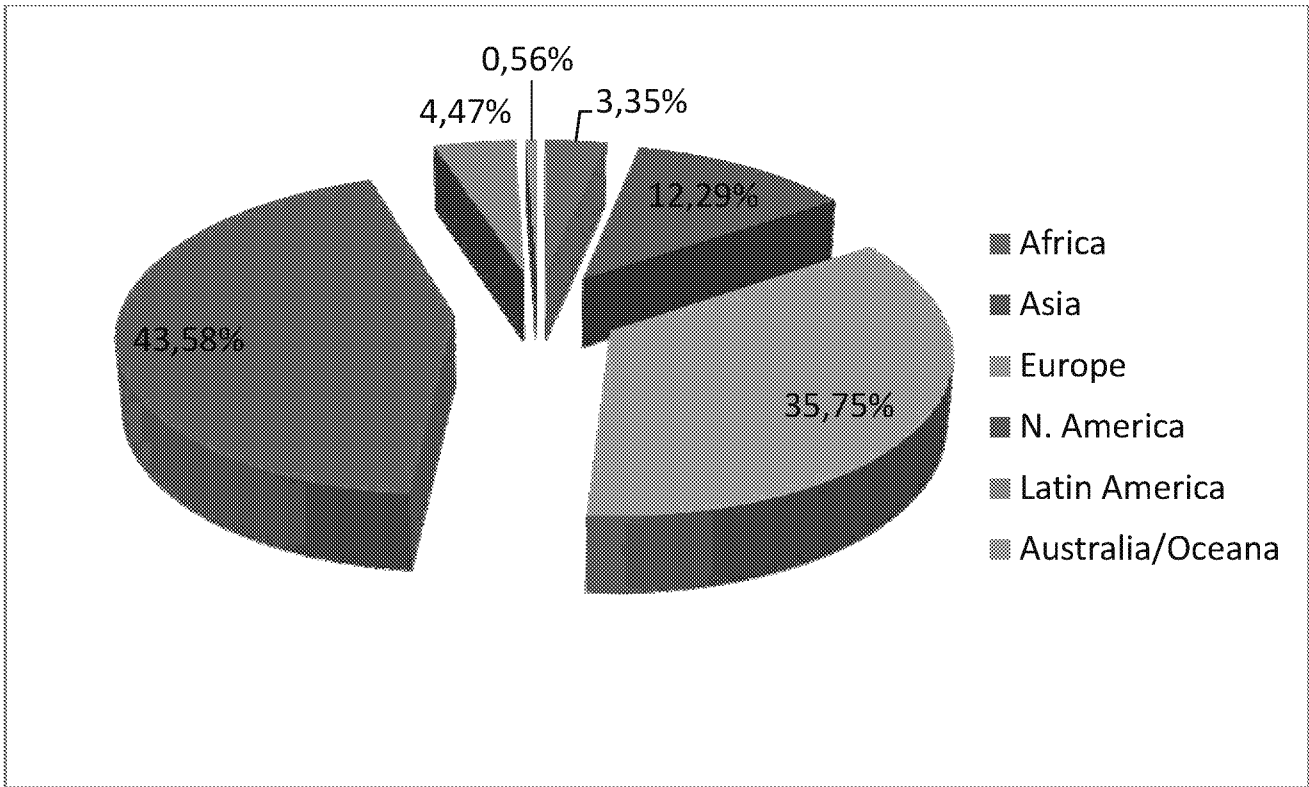


**Gender distribution of CR Fellows by continent**  
total number of Fellows: 169

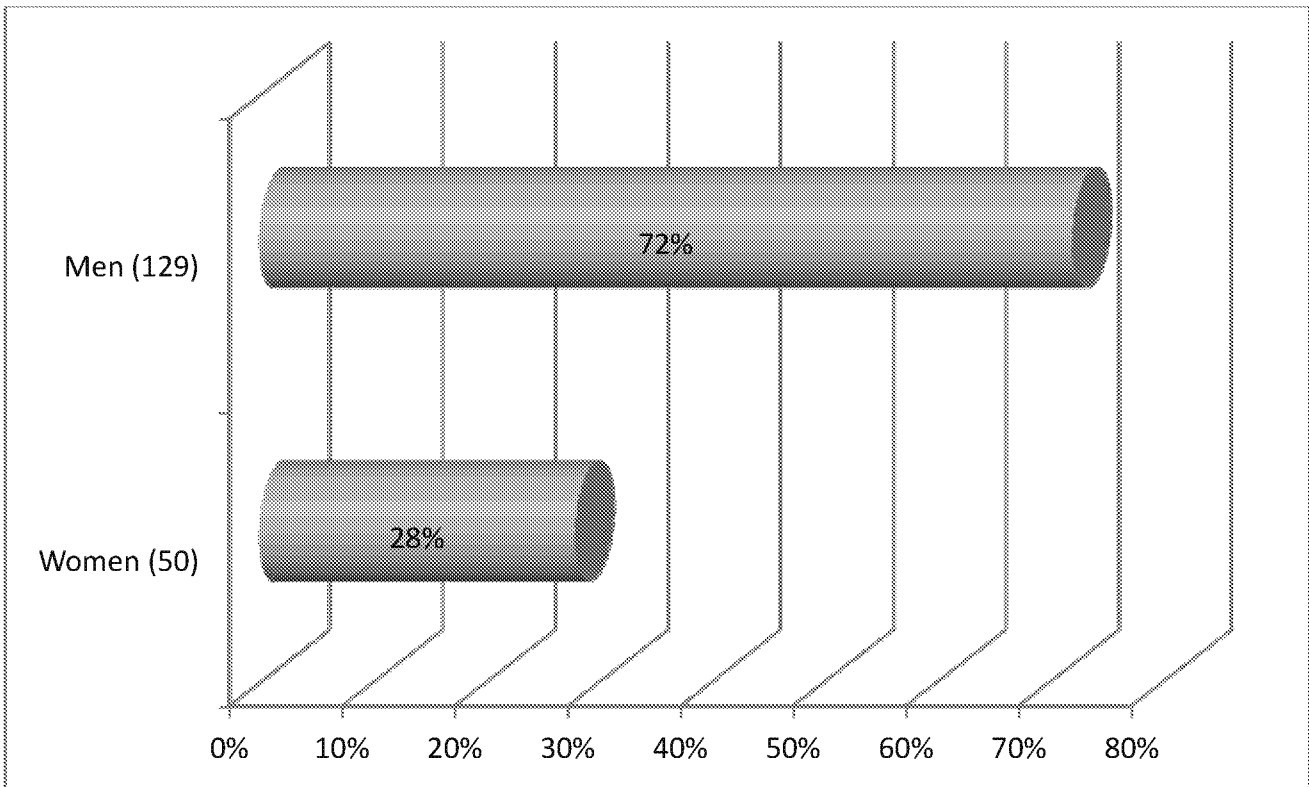


# MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW 2011

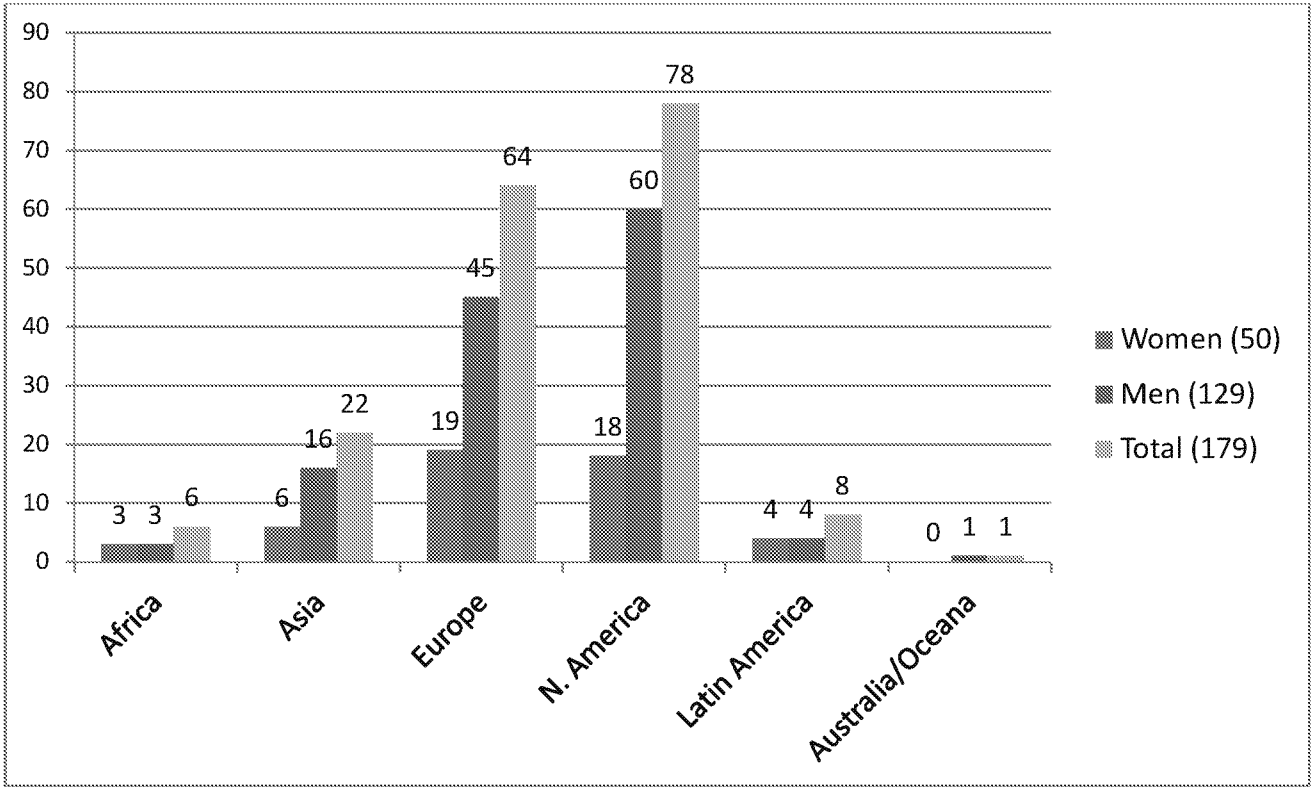
## Geographic distribution by region



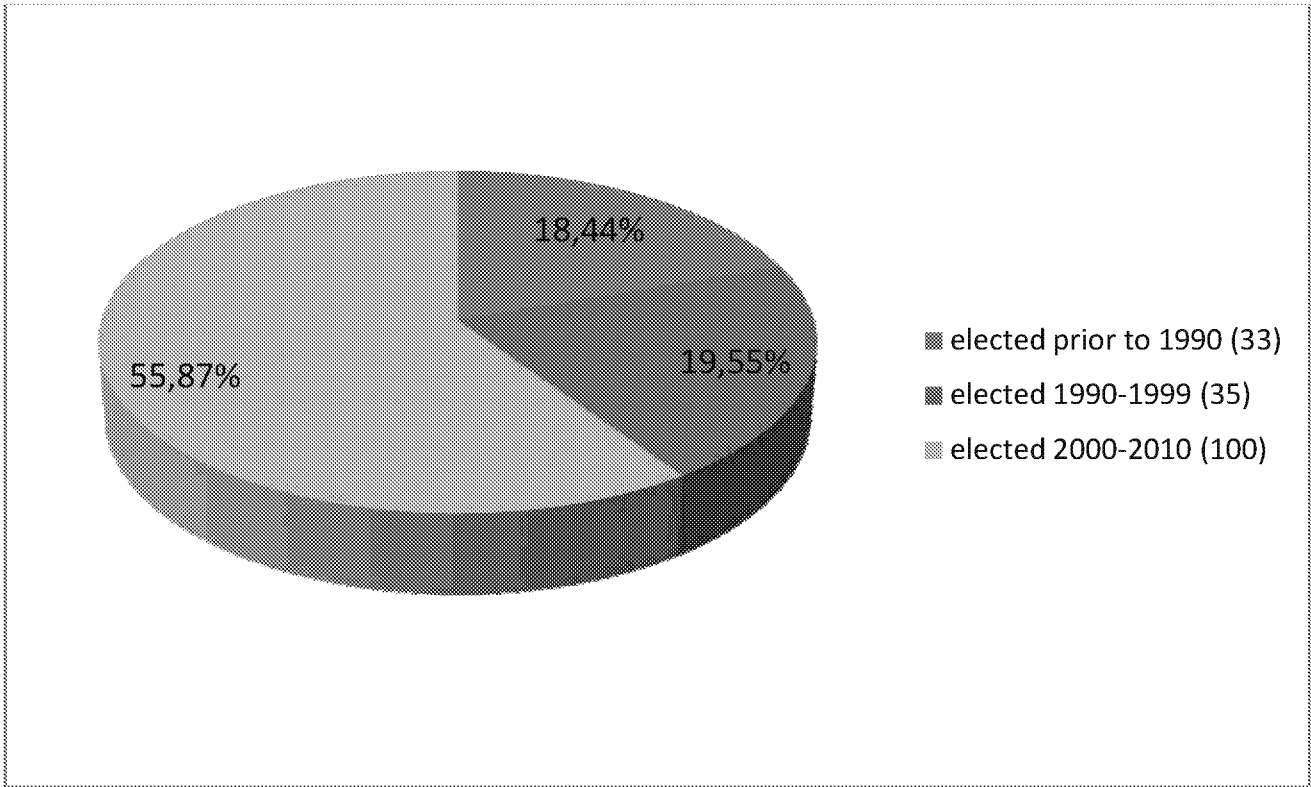
## Gender distribution



Gender distribution by geographic region



Tenure



INFORMATION FOR NEWLY-ELECTED  
FELLOWS OF THE COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

Welcome to the Collegium Ramazzini. As a relatively small organization with a closed number of members, it is important that each of our Fellows play a part in sustaining the health of the Collegium and maximizing our impact on the prevention of environmental and occupational diseases. This brief document is intended to provide you with some operational information about membership in the Collegium.

First, we look forward to seeing you at the meeting that is held in Carpi, Italy at the end of October of each year. Attendance at meetings is an important component of membership and we ask Fellows to commit to attending at least one meeting during a three-year period. Some travel support is available to colleagues with financial need. The next annual meeting is scheduled for October 26-28, 2012 and online meeting registration opens in July via [www.collegiumramazzini.org](http://www.collegiumramazzini.org). The registration fees for the meeting cover hotel accommodations, conference meals and local ground transportation from Bologna to Carpi. On the first morning, during the Council of Fellows session, the Collegium recognizes its new members in a ceremony where you will be presented with a silver medal of membership by the Mayor of Carpi and the President of the Collegium. New Fellows are also encouraged to submit an abstract for the "Work of the Fellows" scientific session held on Saturday afternoon. This is a great way to share your current work either as an oral communication or poster and introduce yourself to colleagues in the Collegium.

A nominal Fellow membership fee of 150\$US dollars per year is assessed to support the operation of the organization. The fee is payable to the Treasurer and is tax-deductable in most countries. Membership fees are due prior to the annual meeting each year and are payable online via paypal or major credit card. Receipts for payment are generated by the online system and are also available upon request to the Treasurer.

Fellows are encouraged to participate in the scientific life of the organization by serving on at least one committee. There are several Standing committees such as Training and Education, Priority Topics and Meetings, International Collaboration, Membership and Awards. Other ad hoc committees may be formed based on current issues of interest and the drafting of Collegium Ramazzini statements. Recent examples of these thematic committees include Nanomaterials, Cancer Screening and Prevention, and Biocides. In the next few months, you will receive additional information about these committees from the office of the General Secretariat.

The Collegium Ramazzini General Secretariat is headquartered in Bologna, Italy. The General Secretary is Morando Soffritti who may be reached at [soffrittim@ramazzini.it](mailto:soffrittim@ramazzini.it). The contact person for Collegium business is Kathryn Knowles. Questions about the Collegium or announcements that you would like to post on the website or share with the membership should be directed to Kathryn at [collegium@ramazzini.it](mailto:collegium@ramazzini.it). The annual meeting in Carpi is organized by a team in Bologna comprised of Federica Scagliarini, Erica Tommasini and Susanna Tassinari. The address for event-related communications is [events@ramazzini.it](mailto:events@ramazzini.it).

Please help us introduce you to your colleagues by sending a brief professional profile for the website to [collegium@ramazzini.it](mailto:collegium@ramazzini.it). We look forward to meeting you in Carpi.

*The staff of the General Secretariat*

## Background & Justification

The Collegium Ramazzini is an independent, international academy committed to advancing occupational and environmental health. The Collegium serves as a bridge between the worlds of scientific discovery, social policy, and public consciousness. . Development and communication of statements, scientific reviews, and position papers are central to fulfillment of the Collegium mission. These documents serve to guide legislators, regulators, and other decision makers. Collegium statements communicate the policy implications of scientific findings in order to work toward solutions of occupational and environmental health problems. The Collegium focuses particularly on the identification of preventable injuries and illness that are due to remediable risk factors in the workplace and environment throughout the world.

To this end, the Collegium disseminates Statements, Reviews, and Papers. They are based on the best available relevant science. They consider the diversity of local resources, practices, and conditions where these communications may be received around the world. They embody an ethical approach to occupational and environmental health practice.

The Collegium Document Review Committee (DRC) was established in 2007 to recommend a procedure to move from concept to completion efficiently and also assure that interested members have ample opportunity for participating in document development.

## Recommended process

1. Proposal: Any Fellow of the Collegium can propose that a Statement be developed for consideration by the Collegium. The proposal should be brief (preferably 1-2 pages) and include the following information: Topic, type of document (e.g., Brief Statement, Comprehensive Scientific Review with recommendations, Position Paper, etc.), proposed author(s), intended audience and publication venue, intended impact, whether or why it is timely, deadline for completion, and the competing interests of any authors (e.g., commercial or consulting relationships that may be perceived as creating a conflict). Proposals can either be presented at the annual meeting or be circulated electronically through the General Secretariat to the entire membership of the Collegium. In assembling the writing group and describing the document, the lead author(s) should be mindful of the economic, legal, and political diversity of settings in which members of the Collegium are active and where the document may be used as well as the importance of all CR recommendations reflecting ethical public health practice.
2. Endorsement of Concept: The authors are obliged to consider all members' comments that are received within 1 month of issuance of the proposal. The authors

will then present a revised proposal to the Collegium Executive Committee (EC) for endorsement. The EC will assure that proposed documents are consistent with the mission of the Collegium and that the writing group includes people with the expertise to produce a useful document that is ready to be approved and disseminated by the Collegium. The EC will act within ~~1 month~~ of receiving a request to endorse a concept, either by endorsing the concept and writing group or by communicating to the lead authors any concerns that must be resolved before approval.

3. Notification of Concept Approval: The CR membership will be notified electronically (or by fax or mail for those without internet access) when a Document CONCEPT has been approved by the EC. Members may indicate within one month of delivery of notification if they would like to be considered to join the writing team, or if they are willing to serve as informal or formal reviewers. Members should also contact authors within one month of delivery of notification if they identify issues they wish to be addressed by the writing team.
4. Consultation and assistance: As progress is made or questions arise during document development, authors are encouraged to communicate with the DRC and/or the EC.
5. Peer Review
  - 5.1. The corresponding author will send an electronic copy of a completed draft along with suggestions for reviewers to the DRC. Everyone involved in the development of the document to that point should be identified, even if they are not listed as authors. Actual or potential competing interests of authors should be listed in the proposal.
  - 5.2. A DRC liaison will select reviewers from Collegium members and others and obtain two or more timely reviews within 6 weeks. Reviewers will be asked to comment on the accuracy, completeness, and relevance to the Collegium mission of any scientific presentation as well as on whether the scientific presentation provides satisfactory or compelling justification for any policy statements. Reviews will identify any potential ethical issues and also any concerns relevant to the diverse economic, social, political, and legal settings in which the document will be used.
  - 5.3. The review comments will be communicated to the corresponding author without identification of the reviewers. The document may be revised to address review comments or the writing group may choose to respond to the comments without document revision.
  - 5.4. A final proposal, including an executive summary, along with a memorandum indicating how each review comment was addressed will be submitted to the DRC. A complete document package will consist of the proposed document, peer review comments, authors' responses, and DRC notes). The DRC liaison

will then either present the packet to the EC along with relevant information about the review process or may engage with the writing group to resolve any outstanding issues.

6. Document approval. Upon receipt of the completed document package, the Executive Committee will decide on one of two possible methods of document review and approval, depending on the nature of the document, considerations of timeliness, and other relevant factors:

- 6.1. Submit the proposed document to CR members for final comment and approval.

- 6.1.1 Circulate the proposed document to all members electronically or by fax or mail and accept comments from members within a 2 week period following delivery. The E.C. will consult with the authors and make revisions in the proposed document as deemed appropriate within 2 weeks.

- 6.1.1. Circulate a final proposed document to all Collegium members for a vote to:

- 6.1.2. Accept the document as is as a CR document;

- 6.1.3. Accept the document after minor (specified) edits, factual corrections or addition of relevant references;

- 6.1.4. Disapprove the document in its current form. Members expressing this preference will be encouraged to specify the basis for their recommending rejection.

- 6.1.5. A document receiving approving of at least 2/3 of members who vote will be accepted. A minimum of 90 total votes received within 4 weeks are required for the decision to become effective.

- 6.1.6. If less than 90 total votes are received on a proposed document, the EC has the option of using the second method of approval of a Collegium document (see below).

- 6.1.7 If compelling and significant issues of science, policy, politics, ethics, or fairness arise during the review and comment process, the EC may at its discretion choose to withhold approval of the document until the issues are aired and resolved.

- 6.2 The EC may elect to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove the proposed document without a formal vote of the Collegium membership, if timeliness, nature of document or other specified conditions warrant. If compelling and significant issues of science, policy, politics, ethics, or fairness arise during the review and comment process, the EC may at its discretion choose to withhold approval of the document until the issues are aired and resolved. The EC will make this decision within 3 weeks of its submission by the DRC. The decision of



the EC will be submitted to the members along with an explanation about why the proposed document was not submitted for full membership review and approval.

7. Annual Reporting: Prior to the Annual Meeting, members will receive a report of all documents proposed, approved for development, completed, and approved for dissemination during the past year. Consideration should be given to a scheduled discussion of documents at the annual meeting of Fellows.



DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NOBIS  
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUIT

FOUNDING PRESIDENT

IRVING J. SELIKOFF

FOUNDING SECRETARY GENERAL

CESARE MALTONI

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KAREL VAN DAMME  
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December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010

The Honorable  
Dr. JEAN CHAREST  
Premier  
National Assembly  
Quebec

Sent by fax : 001-418-643-3924

Dear Premier Charest,

I am writing you today in my capacity of Secretary General of the Collegium Ramazzini, an independent, international scientific society dedicated to the prevention of occupational and environmental diseases around the world. Our membership is comprised of 180 members from 34 countries, including leading scientists distinguished by their focus in environmental health. For over 25 years Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini have convened annually in Carpi, Italy, birthplace of Bernardino Ramazzini, to discuss and make recommendations on the most pressing issues in environmental and occupational health.

We have been informed that in the next few weeks the Quebec government intends to allocate \$58 million in financing to an anonymous consortium of foreign investors to open the Jeffrey mine to export 5 million tons of asbestos to Asia over the next quarter century.

On behalf of our membership and of our President, Dr. Philip Landrigan, Chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, USA, I urgently implore you to take action to halt this project and prevent the unnecessary increase of asbestos diseases in future generations in Asia.

Asbestos is a public health disaster in every country in the world. It is a proven cause of asbestosis, a fibrotic form of lung disease. Asbestos is also a proven human carcinogen. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the cancer



- 2 -

mesothelioma and cancer of the ovaries. The WHO has stated that all forms of asbestos are probable causes of gastrointestinal cancer.

The forces that advocate for the continuing use of asbestos are formidable and well-organized. Lies are their weapon. Manufacture of doubt is their strategy. They are deterred by neither scientific fact nor the rulings of the World Health Organization.

The Collegium Ramazzini has called repeatedly, in 1993, 1999 and 2004, for all countries to ban asbestos. Virtually all of the independent organizations of the world concerned with the health and welfare of workers and the general public, such as the International Social Security Association (ISSA) have likewise called for a ban on asbestos use. A copy of our most recent call for a ban of asbestos is attached.

To date, 50 countries have banned all forms of asbestos, most recently Japan, South Africa and South Korea. Malaysia is expected to announce a ban within months.

We are confident that you will listen to our call and take action to prevent Quebec from contributing to such a grave public health danger.

Dr. Morando Soffritti  
Secretary General  
Collegium Ramazzini

Copy to: Dr. Philip J. Landrigan



# COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI

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41012 Carpi / Modena / Italy

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DA VENIAM SCRIPTIS QUORUM NON GLORIA NORIS  
CAUSA, SED UTILITAS OFFICIUMQUE FUIT

FOUNDING PRESIDENT  
IRVING J. SELIKOFF

FOUNDING SECRETARY GENERAL  
CESARE MALTONI

July 19, 2011

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Italy

*Treasurer*  
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MASSIMO CRESPI  
Italy

PHILIPPE GRANDJEAN  
Denmark

JAMES M. MELIUS  
USA

KAREL VAN DAMME  
Belgium

Dr. TATIANA GOLIKOVA  
Minister of Health and Social Development  
Ministry of Health  
Russia

## **Re: Russian proposal to ban asbestos in friction material in the Eurasian Economic Community**

Dear Minister Golikova,

I am writing to you in my capacity as the President of the Collegium Ramazzini and also as a Foreign Member of the Russian Academy of Medical Science. The Collegium Ramazzini is an international academic society that examines critical issues in occupational and environmental medicine and is dedicated to the prevention of disease and the promotion of health. Currently, 180 renowned clinicians and scientists from around the world, each of whom has been elected to membership, comprise the Collegium. It is independent of commercial interests.

In 2010, the Collegium Ramazzini reiterated its concern about asbestos use in a widely reproduced statement entitled: *Asbestos Is Still with Us: Repeat Call for a Universal Ban*.<sup>1</sup> In this document we pointed out:

- All forms of asbestos are proven human carcinogens. All forms of asbestos cause malignant mesothelioma, lung, laryngeal, and ovarian cancers, and may cause gastrointestinal and other cancers.
- No exposure to asbestos is without risk.
- Russia is now the leading producer of asbestos worldwide.
- There is no such thing as the "controlled use of asbestos."
- Safer substitute products are available and in use in countries all over the world where asbestos is banned.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.collegiumramazzini.org/download/15\\_FifteenthCRStatement%282010%29.pdf](http://www.collegiumramazzini.org/download/15_FifteenthCRStatement%282010%29.pdf)



Considering the Collegium Ramazzini's position on asbestos therefore, we were very happy to hear the news that the Russian Federal State Unitary Enterprise "NAMI" is proposing a ban on the use of asbestos in friction material in the Eurasian Economic Community. Friction materials are a particular source of concern to health experts because of the high content of asbestos fiber; clearly the higher the content of asbestos, the greater the risk of occupational and environmental contamination.<sup>2</sup> Asbestos exposure from grinding brake pads and cleaning brake assemblies is a widely recognized health hazard. Manufacturers of new cars and trucks all over the world have converted to safer technologies. China and over 50 other countries have banned the use of asbestos in vehicle friction materials. But asbestos-containing replacement brake parts constitute a continuing, long-term cancer hazard to millions of vehicle repair workers in other countries around the world.

We understand that since the technical regulation was drafted by the Russian Federal State Unitary Enterprise "NAMI" which proposed the ban on the use of asbestos in friction material in the Eurasian Economic Community, included in the draft entitled "The Safety of Wheeled Vehicles," the Russian Chrysotile Association has been exerting enormous pressure for regulators to drop this recommendation and allow the status quo to continue. In our opinion, such an act is contrary to the well-being of Russian citizens. We praise the Ministry of Health for its progressive attempt to safeguard citizens' well-being. Of course, the Collegium Ramazzini would be willing to assist you in any consultative process you might deem useful in order to progress the far-sighted phase-out of asbestos.

Sincerely,

Dr. Philip Landrigan  
President Collegium Ramazzini

---

<sup>2</sup> The composition of friction material linings and pads can vary from 10 to 70% of asbestos; some textile-based linings can be as much as 60-80% asbestos.

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI, INC.  
(A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CASH BASIS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2011 AND 2010

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI, INC.  
(A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CASH BASIS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2011 AND 2010

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ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Colligium Ramazzini, Inc.  
Los Angeles, California

We have compiled the accompanying statement of assets, liabilities, and net asset - unrestricted fund - cash basis of Collegium Ramazzini, Inc. (a nonprofit Organization) as of August 31, 2011 and 2010, and the related statement of revenues, expenses and net assets - cash basis for the years then ended. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or provided any assurance about whether the financial statements are in accordance with the cash basis of accounting.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the cash basis of accounting and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the compilation in accordance with Statements on standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The objective of a compilation is to assist management in presenting financial information in the form of financial statements without undertaking to obtain or provide any assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements.

Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures ordinarily included in financial statements prepared in accordance with the cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the Company's assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, and expenses. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

*Swicker & Associates,*  
*Accountancy Corporation*  
SWICKER & ASSOCIATES  
Accountancy Corporation

Encino, California  
October 10, 2011



COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI, INC.  
UNRESTRICTED FUND  
(A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES  
AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2011 AND 2010

AUGUST 31, 2010

AUGUST 31, 2011

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	\$ 23,727	\$ 45,372
<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>23,727</u>	<u>45,372</u>

PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT:

Computer	1,488	1,488
LESS: Accumulated Depreciation	(931)	(1,229)
<u>TOTAL PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT, NET</u>	<u>557</u>	<u>259</u>

<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 24,284</u>	<u>\$ 45,631</u>
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LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES

Payable to Restricted Fund	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
Ramazzini Days Clearing Account	-	9,100
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>12,100</u>

NET ASSETS

<u>NET ASSETS-UNRESTRICTED FUND</u>	<u>21,284</u>	<u>33,531</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 24,284</u>	<u>\$ 45,631</u>

See Accompanying Accountant's Compilation Report.

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI, INC.  
UNRESTRICTED FUND  
(A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
STATEMENTS OF REVENUE, EXPENSES  
AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED AUGUST 31, 2011 AND 2010

	<u>AUGUST 31, 2010</u>	<u>AUGUST 31, 2011</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>		
Direct Public Support	\$ 2,604	\$ 9,925
Membership Dues	26,632	35,307
Interest Income	<u>34</u>	<u>42</u>
<u>TOTAL REVENUE</u>	<u>29,270</u>	<u>45,274</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Accounting	4,900	4,500
Bank Charges	321	271
Office Expense	57	3,686
Depreciation Expense	298	298
Maintenance & Repair	-	350
Payment to Affiliates	2,000	6,000
Paypal Expenses	-	566
Consulting Service	15,265	11,806
Transportation Expenses	<u>6,400</u>	<u>5,550</u>
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>29,241</u>	<u>33,027</u>
<u>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</u>	29	12,247
<u>NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR</u>	<u>21,255</u>	<u>21,284</u>
<u>NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR</u>	<u>\$ 21,284</u>	<u>\$ 33,531</u>

See Accompanying Accountant's Compilation Report.

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI, INC.  
(A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
COMBINING STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES  
AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2011 AND 2010

COLLEGIUM RAMAZZINI, INC.  
(A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION)  
COMBINING STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES  
AND NET ASSETS - CASH BASIS  
AS OF AUGUST 31, 2011 AND 2010

AUGUST 31, 2010

ASSETS

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>COMBINED</u>
Cash in Bank	\$ 23,727	\$	\$ 23,727
Cash in UBS		144,881	144,881
Mutual Funds at Cost		24,164	24,164
Receivable from Unrestricted Fund		3,000	
<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>23,727</u>	<u>172,045</u>	<u>192,772</u>
<u>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT:</u>			
Computer	1,488		1,488
LESS: Accumulated Depreciation	(931)		(931)
<u>TOTAL PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT NET</u>	<u>557</u>		<u>557</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 24,284</u>	<u>\$ 172,045</u>	<u>\$ 193,329</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET FUND BALANCES

<u>LIABILITIES</u>			
Payable to Restricted Fund	\$ 3,000	\$ -	
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>3,000</u>		
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			
<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>21,284</u>		<u>\$ 21,284</u>
<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>		<u>172,045</u>	<u>172,045</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	<u>21,284</u>	<u>172,045</u>	<u>193,329</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 21,284</u>	<u>\$ 172,045</u>	<u>\$ 193,329</u>

AUGUST 31, 2011

ASSETS

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>	<u>COMBINED</u>
Cash in Bank	\$ 45,372	\$ -	\$ 45,372
Cash in UBS		143,929	143,929
Mutual Funds at Cost		24,525	24,525
Receivable from Unrestricted Fund		3,000	
<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>45,372</u>	<u>171,454</u>	<u>213,826</u>
<u>PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT:</u>			
Computer	1,488		1,488
LESS: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>(1,229)</u>		<u>(1,229)</u>
<u>TOTAL PROPERTY &amp; EQUIPMENT, NET</u>	<u>259</u>		<u>259</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 45,631</u>	<u>\$ 171,454</u>	<u>\$ 214,085</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

<u>LIABILITIES</u>	\$ 9,100		\$ 9,100
Payable to Restricted Fund	<u>3,000</u>	\$ -	
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	<u>12,100</u>		<u>9,100</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>			
<u>UNRESTRICTED</u>	33,531		33,531
<u>PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED</u>		<u>171,454</u>	<u>171,454</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>	<u>33,531</u>	<u>171,454</u>	<u>204,985</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</u>	<u>\$ 45,631</u>	<u>\$ 171,454</u>	<u>\$ 214,085</u>

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